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Some Factors Related to the Leisure Time Activity of a Select Group of City Firemen

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SOME FACTORS RELATED TO THE LEISURE
TIME ACTIVITY OF A SELECT GROUP
OF CITY FIREMEN

by

James N. Brichetto, S.J.

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School
of Loyola University in Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts

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1963

LIFE

James Nicholas Brichetto was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 21, 1931.

He was graduated from St. Francis Xavier High School, Cincinnati, Ohio, June, 1949, and from Loyola University, West Baden College, June, 1954, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

From 1956 to 1959 the writer taught Latin, speech and sociology at St. Ignatius High School, Chicago, Illinois. During the summers of this period he took courses in sociology at Loyola University. From 1953 to 1956 he studied philosophy at West Baden College, and from 1959 to 1963 he returned there for the study of theology.

The writer has had a number of short stories and articles published in popular Catholic magazines.

PREFACE

The original hope of the writer was to investigate what a number of metropolitan fire departments do with the free time that is a part of their work days. Since this project proved to be too ambitious, it had to be abandoned in favor of a more thorough and concentrated analysis of the leisure time usage, attitudes and satisfaction of the firemen in one city fire department. Perhaps some day in the future a project can be undertaken to study comparatively the official encouragement and leadership for the use of firehouse free time in various metropolitan fire departments.

Thanks are certainly due to the officers and men who either allowed interviews in their quarters or were actually interviewed, sometimes with a certain amount of apprehension, in the course of this study.

Very special thanks are due to Dr. Francis A. Cizon for his kindness and helpfulness.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I. INTRODUCTORY MATTER	1
The Problem--The Study Group--The Hypothesis--Special Problems of Leisure Time in a Firehouse.	
II. METHODOLOGY	18
Leisure Time--The Sample--The Interview.	
III. THE INTERVIEW FINDINGS	37
General Characteristics--Free Time Uses--Free Time Satisfaction--Attitudes on Free Time Usage--Observable Relations--Relationship to Personal Data.	
IV. CONCLUSION	117
BIBLIOGRAPHY	121
APPENDIX I. SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION TABLES.	124
APPENDIX II. INTERVIEW SCHEDULE.	130
APPENDIX III. COPY OF LETTER FROM HEAD OF FIRE DEPARTMENT	134

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
I. PREVIOUS OCCUPATIONS OF FIREMEN	38
II. REASONS FOR JOINING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.	40
III. SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY AGE	42
IV. SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY GENERATIONS BORN IN AMERICA . .	43
V. SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY TIME ON JOB	46
VI. FREE TIME USAGE IN FIREHOUSE	56
VII. FIREHOUSE CONVERSATION SATISFACTION.	63
VIII. FREE TIME SATISFACTION OF FIREMEN IN FIREHOUSE AND ON OFF-DUTY DAYS	63
IX. ESTIMATED SATISFACTION OF OTHER FIREMEN WITH FIREHOUSE FREE TIME	64
X. WHOM FIREMAN BELIEVES DERIVES MORE SATISFACTION FROM FIREHOUSE FREE TIME.	64
XI. SATISFACTION WHEN ON DUTY AND OFF DUTY	64
XII. ESTIMATED HOURS OF FREE TIME IN FIREHOUSE.	66
XIII. REASONS FOR STUDYING OR NOT IN FIREHOUSE	67
XIV. REASONS FOR FIREHOUSE CONVERSATION SATISFACTION. . . .	68
XV. REASONS FOR FREE TIME SATISFACTION WHEN OFF DUTY . . .	69

XVI.	FIREHOUSE FREE TIME DESIRES	71
XVII.	REASONS FOR UNFULFILLED DESIRES FOR LEISURE USAGE	73
XVIII.	FREE TIME RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FIREHOUSE	75
XIX.	AWARENESS OF LEISURE AND PROBLEMS	77
XX.	PROBLEMS ATTRIBUTED TO IMPROPER LEISURE USAGE.	78
XXI.	COMPARISON OF FREE TIME USAGE BETWEEN MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES.	79
XXII.	COMPARISON OF CONVERSATION TOPICS BETWEEN MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES	81
XXIII.	COMPARISON OF STUDY OF FIRE-FIGHTING TECHNIQUES BETWEEN MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES	81
XXIV.	COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE FREE TIME SATISFACTION BETWEEN MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES.	82
XXV.	COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE CONVERSATION SATISFACTION BE- TWEEN MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES.	83
XXVI.	COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED SATISFACTION OF OTHERS BETWEEN MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES.	83
XXVII.	COMPARISON OF SATISFACTION WHEN ON DUTY AND OFF DUTY BETWEEN MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES.	84
XXVIII.	COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE FREE TIME DESIRES BETWEEN MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES.	86
XXIX.	COMPARISON OF FREE TIME RECOMMENDATIONS BETWEEN MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES.	86
XXX.	COMPARISON OF AWARENESS OF LEISURE AND PROBLEMS BETWEEN MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES.	88
XXXI.	COMPARISON OF FREE TIME USAGE BETWEEN MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES	89
XXXII.	COMPARISON OF STUDY OF FIRE-FIGHTING TECHNIQUES BETWEEN MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES.	90
XXXIII.	COMPARISON OF CONVERSATION TOPICS BETWEEN MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES.	91

XXXIV.	COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE CONVERSATION SATISFACTION BETWEEN MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES.	92
XXXV.	COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE FREE TIME SATISFACTION BETWEEN MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES.	93
XXXVI.	COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED SATISFACTION OF OTHERS BETWEEN MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES.	93
XXXVII.	COMPARISON OF SATISFACTION WHEN ON DUTY AND OFF DUTY BETWEEN MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES.	94
XXXVIII.	COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE FREE TIME DESIRES BETWEEN MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES.	95
XXXIX.	COMPARISON OF FREE TIME RECOMMENDATIONS BETWEEN MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES.	96
XL.	COMPARISON OF AWARENESS OF LEISURE AND PROBLEMS BETWEEN MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES.	97
XLI.	COMPARISON OF WHOM FIREMAN BELIEVES DERIVES MORE SATISFACTION FROM FIREHOUSE FREE TIME BETWEEN MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES.	97
XLII.	COMPARISON OF FREE TIME USAGE BETWEEN MEN FROM COM- BINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES. .	99
XLIII.	COMPARISON OF CONVERSATION TOPICS BETWEEN MEN FROM COM- BINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES. .	101
XLIV.	COMPARISON OF STUDY OF FIRE-FIGHTING TECHNIQUES BETWEEN MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES.	102
XLV.	COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE CONVERSATION SATISFACTION BETWEEN MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES.	103
XLVI.	COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE FREE TIME SATISFACTION BETWEEN MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES.	104
XLVII.	COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED SATISFACTION OF OTHERS BETWEEN MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES.	105

XLVIII.	COMPARISON OF SATISFACTION WHEN ON DUTY AND OFF DUTY BETWEEN MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES.	105
XLIX.	COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE FREE TIME DESIRES BETWEEN MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES.	106
L.	COMPARISON OF FREE TIME RECOMMENDATIONS BETWEEN MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES.	107
LI.	COMPARISON OF AWARENESS OF LEISURE AND PROBLEMS BETWEEN MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES.	108
LII.	COMPARISON OF WHOM FIREMAN BELIEVES DERIVES MORE SATISFACTION FROM FIREHOUSE FREE TIME BETWEEN MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES.	109
LIII.	SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY NUMBER OF MEN IN FIREHOUSE AND BY OPERATIONAL UNITS.	124
LIV.	SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY AVERAGE WORKING TIME FOR FIREHOUSES.	127
LV.	SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY AVERAGE WORKING TIME FOR SIX- AND SEVEN-MEN COMPANIES IN EACH FIREHOUSE.	128
LVI.	SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY WORKING TIME FOR SIX- AND SEVEN-MEN COMPANIES	129

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY MATTER

The Problem. The beginnings of the concept of leisure activity are hidden in the realms of antiquity. Fragmentary evidence points to the fact that even primitive societies had some time that was free from the duties and necessities of life. It is this time that we today call 'leisure.' Many authorities presume that the origins of leisure activity were a by-product of Neolithic technology, the making of bricks and tools, the development of architecture, the advance in the arts of sculpture, ceramics and music. Excavations in ancient Egypt, Babylonia and elsewhere indicate that activities which can be designated as play existed almost universally. Persia, Greece and Rome had extensive programs for physical training, sports and other forms of play and recreation. Regardless of its origins, however, leisure seems to be a basic goal of the human race.

Eventual leisure has been the dream of the human race. The world has longed for rest and for freedom from want and the struggle for existence. Some have dreamed of Elysian Fields, where they would have time for creative activities. The Indians have looked for a Happy Hunting Ground. The Hindus have pictured Nirvana as the final emancipation, and the reunion with Brahma; the Buddhists have thought of it as a spiritual condition that frees them from the necessity of future transmigration and makes them oblivious of pain, care, or struggle. Christians have pictured heaven as an eternal resting place where there is no more sorrow or pain. Some have hoped for leisure during the later years of life upon retirement. Few really expected to achieve it during

their active years. The machine age, however, has given it to them. Now they sometimes wonder what to do with it.¹

The first extensive use of leisure probably grew out of the social stratification of society into the laboring and privileged classes. This was true whether the basis for the division was in either the masculine or feminine dominance of society, the children or elder dominance, or in the later separation of the slave and laboring classes from the ruling, wealthy or priestly classes found in the Greek and Roman societies.

The development of the great Greek civilization has been traced to the use of leisure by the 'leisure' classes. The English word 'school' is derived from the Greek word for leisure, 'schole.' For the early Greeks leisure meant, not idleness, but something that belonged with study. It implied that study and learning were concepts that required time and could not be done hastily. In the Holy Bible 'schole' is used to imply rest and quietness.² The great Greek philosophers, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, thought and taught in an atmosphere of quiet leisure. Later the Greeks and Romans indulged in oratory, painting, sculpture, drama, music, poetry, politics and philosophy as uses of leisure. Play and recreation gained in importance as young boys and girls were trained in these as part of their patriotic and religious duties.

During the Middle Ages leisure time took on even wider significance, though it was still restricted to the leisure or non-laboring classes. Gentlemen

¹Martin H. and Esther S. Neumeyer, Leisure and Recreation (New York, 1958), 8.

²Psalm 46:10. "Be still and know that I am God." Worship implies the need for quiet.

fenced, knights fought, the people in general practiced archery, running, jumping, throwing and numerous other activities. As these amusements were promoted more and more, the leisure classes began to set a pace that others tried to follow. The subservient position of the slaves and peasants, however, and the dictation of their lives in all categories by the ruling classes, made leisure time for them more an exception than the ordinary. It was only with the revolt of the slaves and peasants, together with the technological progress that came with the Industrial Revolution, that leisure time came to more and more groups of people. Justifications were made for it, and efforts were given to the development of practical uses for it.

While the amount of time available for leisure usage has increased steadily through the ages, and while the various ways for utilizing leisure time have steadily multiplied, no period of time has witnessed such advances as the past century. Improvements in science and technology have not only pushed production of goods beyond the bare essentials of life. They have also provided more time for the greater usage and enjoyment of these goods. Modern methods of communication and transportation have made available more forms of leisure usages in more and more widely scattered areas at more and more times. In centuries past enough goods were often produced to provide for some comforts in life, but producing them took so much time it was almost an impossibility for any large numbers of persons to have the time to enjoy them. As Ogburn notes, it is only with extensive technological progress, combined with industrialization and urbanization, that both goods and time become available in sufficiently large

quantities to be shared by the majority of the populace.³

Modern educational opportunities and programs are also interrelated with the usage of leisure time. Training for a 'worthy use of leisure' has been the aim of schools in their regular and extracurricular activities. Boards of education have their parks and playgrounds and their trained supervisors to guide our youth through their daily playground activities. Schools and community groups have invested in hobby shops and other forms of worthwhile uses of leisure to keep our youths occupied. Chicago's Commission on Youth Welfare, in issuing an open letter to all Chicago families on the Chicago curfew law for children emphasized the importance of the law as another aid to parents and religious and public agencies and institutions in regulating and guiding children in their selection of and use of leisure hours.⁴

It should be evident, then, that leisure time and leisure uses have become something of a problem that the modern age must face.⁵

In previous centuries one of our greatest problems was the creation and production of wealth and power. In the current century one of our greatest problems is to teach the proper use of the leisure which our creation of wealth has made available to us. . . . Wise use of leisure has not only created but helped develop all the great civilizations. . . . A life of extreme ease is all too frequently paralleled by both physical and mental deterioration.⁶

³William F. Ogburn, The Social Effects of Aviation (Boston, 1946), 402.

⁴"The Curfew Law in Chicago," a brochure available from the Chicago Commission on Youth Welfare. Chapter 190, Municipal Code of Chicago, forbids unsupervised youths under seventeen years of age to be on public streets from 11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and from 10:30 p.m. other nights until 6:00 a.m.

⁵See Neumeyer, Chapter II, for a more detailed history of leisure.

⁶Florence Greenhoe Robbins, The Sociology of Play, Recreation, and Leisure Time (Dubuque, 1955), 3.

Availability of leisure time has been extended to persons of various ages and groups, many of whom had previously been denied this opportunity: children and young people, the aged and retired, women, workers, the unemployed, and various other social groupings. Literature on leisure and recreation is increasing.⁷ An increasing number of scientific surveys and studies on leisure and recreation have made their appearances. The problem is becoming apparent. Joseph Roucek in his Social Control states it as follows:

In the general patterns of social change recreation assumes an ever-increasing position of importance in individual and social well being. Recreation takes its place with religion, education, health and work as the five essential factors molding individual personality and affording a community more abundant living. While these processes functioning in balance achieve growth and progress, the neglect of any process can create individual and social pathology. . . .

And the future, with its gifts from the sciences, yet undreamed of inventions and discoveries, newer means of communication and transportation, conquest of the drudgeries of life, the social demands for better health, advancing techniques of education, and the overwhelming forces that will bring added joy to life's sojourn set before us salient goals for achievement and adventure.⁸

Donald E. Super comments in his study on avocations:

Finally, a great deal has been written in recent years about the increasing need for guidance in the use of leisure time. It has been pointed out that the hours for work are decreasing, that retirement provisions increase the leisure of the elderly, that much work is so mechanized that other outlets are necessary, and that many people who would like to work have leisure forced upon them. Provisions for the worthwhile use of this time have increased considerably; but the choice has been rendered more difficult . . . and ways need to be found to

⁷Cf. Leisure---Magazines of a Thousand Diversions; Recreation, published by the National Recreation Society; Enjoying Leisure Time, Menninger, Science Research Associates (Chicago, 1952); and the numerous other magazines and books on hunting, fishing, boating, hobbies, etc.

⁸Joseph S. Roucek and Associates, Social Control (New Jersey, 1956) 260.

enable people to take advantage of their new opportunities.⁹

This study and report, though published in 1940, was made in 1934, long before the thirty-five and forty hour weeks.

In addition to the socio-cultural considerations related to the problem of leisure time and leisure usages, there are also moral factors. To the thirty-second meeting of the Social Week of Catholic Italians in the year 1959, Cardinal Domenico Tardini, Vatican Secretary of State, said in a letter sent in behalf of Pope John XXIII: "Irresponsible use of leisure time brings with it no slight dangers and could easily bring about its degeneration into means of evading one's responsibilities and an incentive to idleness and dissipation."¹⁰

This thirty-second meeting of the Social Week for Catholic Italians had for its theme: "Use of Leisure Time as a Current Social Problem." This was considered especially timely "because it is now linked with . . . innovations developing in the industrial field called automation." The conclusion reached in the conference was that problems posed by increased leisure time must be met with constant reminders of the value of life. As useful means of occupying leisure time, the conference called for development of "an active interest in sports, touring in groups, a knowledge of the arts, television, and reading."

The Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church forbids 'servile work' on Sundays and Holydays. This term has admitted many different interpretations through

⁹Avocational Interest Patterns, A Study in the Psychology of Avocations, Stanford University (1940), 2-3.

¹⁰National Catholic Welfare Conference news and radio release, November, 1959.

the centuries. But Popes, especially since the time of Leo XIII, have shown concern with idleness and leisure time on these days of 'rest.' From Leo XIII's encouraging of French factory workers to do gardening on Sundays to John XXIII's approval of both participant and spectator sports on Sundays, as well as admonishments such as the Council of Baltimore's on Sunday tavern drinking, the problem has been becoming more apparent in its moral implications and more interest has been shown on it.¹¹

It is within this background of the increasing availability of leisure time that the present study was conceived: a study of social factors influencing the leisure time habits and activities and the attitudes toward this time and activity as seen in a group of men having a special leisure time problem.

The Study Group. The sample for this thesis on leisure time and leisure usage was drawn from a city fire department in a large metropolis. Such a group offers the advantages of studying a group of men with relatively the same general backgrounds, education, and interests under varying situations related to actual number of hours worked, leadership, companions, the restricted uses and opportunities in the firehouse, and the general opportunities for leisure common to the average working man on his day off and after work.

Leisure activities for the fireman are an integral part of the organization of his life. The complexity and significance of it might best be illustrated by an actual problem case. Mrs. 'X' called upon a clergyman and upon influential

¹¹Canon 1248, Code of Canon Law, is the canon which governs Sunday activities. For a discussion of the historical development of the concept of 'servile work,' see Karl Rudolf, Der Christliche Sonntag, "Theologie und Kasiustik der Sonntagsruhe" (Vienna, 1956). Also, Vincent Kelly, Forbidden Sunday and Feast-day Occupations (Washington, 1943).

politicians to try to have her fireman-husband transferred from the bureau of fire prevention, to which he had recently been assigned, back to one of the city's fire engines. The reason was that the husband could not adapt to the regular eight hours of work each day in the bureau, and found himself compelled to spend his free hours after work and in the evenings at the corner tavern. While he had been assigned to one of the regular companies, with twenty-four hours on duty and forty-eight hours off duty, he had none of this trouble. On that schedule the husband was able to find work to keep him busy during the days off duty, to come home tired, and want to stay there.¹²

In the fire department used as the basis for this study and at the time the research was made there were controversies and problems generally referred to by the men as "hot potatoes". Perhaps the largest of these "potatoes" was the matter of working at a second job on off-duty days. This is against civil service regulations for firemen in this department. Usually this 'moonlighting' is unknown or disregarded by the public and by officials until some fireman takes a good job on his off-day which someone else would like to have.¹³

¹²This case was related in a discussion with the officer of the man involved.

¹³In conferences with high officers and with the head of the department, the development of the problem was explained in this way. The civil service regulations against second jobs was apparently well-enforced until the time of the Second World War. Because of the manpower shortage then, the regulations were disregarded and the men encouraged to take outside jobs as part of the defense effort. Many firemen, because of this, were able to make downpayments on homes they would not have been able to afford otherwise. When the war ended little was done to force these firemen to quit their second jobs. The risk of losing their homes or of losing the better standard of living to which they had been accustomed accounted for this. As a result, the situation continues even to the present day. At the time of the second conference with the head of the department, he had three letters which had been forwarded to him from a city complaint department. They complained about three different firemen who had been observed

As a result of this and some other 'touchy' discrepancies, some difficulty was encountered in getting permission to do the research for this study. In the first place, a number of conferences were held with higher officers in the department, including two with the highest superior. It was not easy to convince them that leisure time and not the fire department was under investigation. Emphasis was given to the fact that fire department personnel would be utilized only because of their availability, their similarities in background, and their time schedule of work. Finally, a letter of introduction to fire department men and officers was granted, authorizing them to be interviewed or to allow others to be interviewed on a strictly voluntary basis. This letter helped considerably in obtaining some of the interviews. An agreement was also made not to mention the particular fire department or city by name in the final report, nor to give specific information which could definitely pinpoint the particular fire companies involved in the study.

Some data reported in this thesis could be taken out of context and misinterpreted by those unfamiliar with the entire situation. For this reason emphasis is made that this study is a study of leisure time and leisure time uses made with fire department personnel as a study group. In no way was it intended to be a study of the fire department as such. Statements made by firemen which were derogatory of the fire department, policies or personnel were in no way checked for validity. They were accepted only as reflections on the individual interviewee's subjective definition of the situation. Descriptive

at work on second jobs. All three had second jobs which would be advantageous and in demand.

information on the fire department is given in general, approximate terms (it is hoped without distorting its meaning) to avoid connecting this report to any particular department or company.

At the time this study was made, in the late 1950's, the men on the various fire-fighting companies throughout the city were on a twenty-four hours on duty and forty-eight hours off duty schedule. This included the six- and seven-men companies known as pumpers (for pumping water and actually putting water on the fire), trucks (for carrying ladders and other overhauling equipment), and rescue units (which serve fire, accident, and other special duties). Also on this 24-48 hour schedule were the officers on these companies, officers in various districts, drivers, helpers, and the men assigned to other one-, two-, or three-men companies which specialized in certain types of work (e.g., ambulances, towers, hose wagons, chemical units, etc.). Men in the Bureau of Fire Prevention and men in the offices and repair shops were subject to special call duty, to a strict eight hour work day, or to both.

The schedule for the fireman's work day in the firehouse usually includes a morning filled with housework, maintenance of apparatus, drills, and directed study of fire-fighting techniques. Most houses and equipment seemed to be kept in excellent condition. However, the impression was gained that some companies sometimes substitute actual fire fighting experience for the drills and study prescribed in the rule book.¹⁴ These statements are made here only because they indicate that some of the time on duty in the firehouse in the mornings,

¹⁴From discussions and interviews it seemed that most of the men with many years experience on the job were convinced that they had learned and that others would learn much more from experience than from books and drills. This opinion also seemed prevalent among men on the busier companies.

which we will designate as work time, might actually add hours to those considered as leisure time or time with which the fireman is more or less free to choose what he will do.

In addition to these three to four hours assigned for work in the firehouse each morning, an average throughout the city of approximately one hour out of every twenty-four hours will be spent on actual fire duty. An individual company might work anywhere from forty hours per year (this divided over three different shifts of men) to over one thousand hours per year on actual fire or special duties. Hours spent on fire and special duty include the time from the sounding of the alarm in the firehouse to the time the company returns to its quarters, makes necessary repairs or changes of equipment, and is again in service for more calls. This working time includes responses to real fires, false alarms, accidents, rescue operations and other special duties. The average daily hour of fire or special duty work per company might be accumulated by a sprinkling of minor alarms or by fighting a fire which continues until the end of the twenty-four hour work day, through the next two days, and on again to the shift of men who were working when the fire was first reported.

The work of the fireman at a fire also varies considerably. It might entail heavy work such as chopping holes in roofs or pulling down walls and ceilings. It might be dangerous and tiring such as searching buildings for unconscious victims or charging into rooms with a stream of water. It might be rather light such as watching pressure meters on the pumps, quenching a burning waste paper basket, or chauffeuring chiefs and acting as their messengers. It should be noted that firemen and their wages should not be considered merely on the basis of the number of hours worked at fires or on the regularity of a heavy

type of work. Time spent on call, maintenance of equipment, drills and training, and the particular type of dangerous work when it comes should also be considered.¹⁵

Allowing three to four hours for morning housework and drills, an hour on the average for fire and special duty work, eight hours for sleep, and another two hours for meals, the fireman on duty in the firehouse will have an average of at least nine hours per day in which he is not compelled by regulation or by need to be doing any specific work. Since in this time he is theoretically free to choose the type of activity in which he will engage, we might call it his leisure time on duty. It is these nine hours in the firehouse and the two days off duty with which we are concerned in this study.

The Hypothesis. Discussions with firemen and their families, with officers, and with others interested in fire department personnel frequently hinted at the importance of social factors relative to firehouse free time behavior. In addition to the influence on behavior of such personal factors as character, background, education and preferences, the influence of one or more of the men working together, on the behavior of others in the group, was commonly voiced.

However, frequent references were also made to the sizes of the firehouses in terms of numbers of men assigned to them, and to the relative number of working hours at actual fires, as factors influencing free time behavior and

¹⁵The interviewer took the occasion to talk to a policeman in one firehouse when the companies were called out to a fire during the interviews. This particular policeman had faced danger personally a number of times and was assigned to a crime-ridden section of the city. Said he of the firemen: "They might look like they sit around a lot, but when they work they work and it's hot. You'd never catch me in there with them." Conversely, a number of firemen volunteered the information that they considered police work more dangerous.

satisfaction in the firehouse.

In this thesis an attempt was made to discover whether these factors, in addition to the personal and social factors, were related to types of free time usage and free time satisfaction. To see whether the numbers of men assigned to the same house and whether the relative busyness of the individual fire companies and firehouses were related to free time usage and satisfaction, the answers to these basic questions were sought: 1) what do the firemen do with their leisure time when on duty and when off duty; 2) what are the attitudes and feelings of the firemen toward their free time and free time usage; 3) how do these findings relate to the relative busyness and size of the group in the firehouse?

This is our hypothesis: free time behavior and satisfaction of firemen when on duty in the firehouse are determined by the number of men assigned to the firehouse and by the busyness of the men on actual work at fires.

Special Problems of Leisure Time in a Firehouse. Firemen of necessity are restricted in the types of leisure activity in which they can engage while on duty in the firehouse. There are at least five different sources of factors influential in the matter of free time and free time uses.

Perhaps the most important of these is the official and unofficial policy of the fire department as regards leisure time. The morning, according to official policy, should be completely consumed by housework, drills or actual fire duty. Modifications of this official policy appear, depending on such factors as the experience of the men, their ages, the type of duty they are subject to, how busy the company is, etc.

The rest of the day should find the men ready for active duty and developing their own knowledge and skills in fire fighting. Officially they are

encouraged to take part in various forms of physical exercise during the day as well as to study and drill in fire-fighting techniques. Official regulations prohibit much that could be leisure time usage. For example, the regulations prohibit such things as hobby shops in the basement, private automobiles in the firehouse, and work on private automobiles. Some of these, we will find, take up a good part of the free time of many a fireman.

Interpretation of these rules by different officers has been a source of confusion and discontent for some men who have been transferred from one company to another. Some officers interpret the regulations strictly, allowing no hobby shops, car work, car washing or sometimes such athletics as baseball and volley ball. The reason given for this was that these officers did not believe the men could be ready for active duty under such conditions. Others interpret the policy as meaning basically to know your work and be ready to go when the alarm sounds. They allow the same car work, hobby shops, athletics, etc., as long as these do not interfere with performance. Some firemen, incidentally, thought the fire department had no policy at all on what they did with their free time in the firehouse; others believed "they would prefer if you just stood at attention by the desk all day."¹⁶

A second source of restriction on firehouse leisure activity is the diversity and lack of facilities. Facilities are usually somewhat 'cramped.' Firehouses differ in the amount of floor space behind the fire apparatus. Space availability adjoining firehouses varies considerably. Basement or upstairs

¹⁶ These views were evident in interviews with the firemen as well as in discussions with officers and men not interviewed and in discussions in firehouses in which interviews were not taken.

rooms for hobby shops, pool tables, etc., as well as facilities for outdoor or indoor handball or volley ball courts, horseshoe pits, etc., vary and influence free time usages that demand space.

The size of the firehouse in terms of the number of men assigned there is also influential in the matter of leisure time activities. The number of men assigned to one firehouse ranged from six to twenty-three working on any given day on the various pieces of apparatus in the firehouse. Firehouse populations varied between predominantly younger men and the majority of the men looking forward to retirement in a few years. The ages of the men and the number of men assigned to live and work together for a twenty-four hour period might well influence the types of activities in which they would engage in their firehouse free time.

Another important factor in the restriction of free time activities is the frequency and length of calls. Company alarms varied from a maximum of fifteen to twenty-five runs per day to an average of only one run per day or less. It is not unknown that one shift of men working together in a firehouse might work four or five consecutive working days without receiving an alarm and getting called out of the firehouse on some duty. This, too, could add to the difficulties encountered in utilizing free time in the firehouse, particularly when the men involved are younger and on busier companies.¹⁷

Additional factors related to the frequency of the alarms concern the length of time spent on individual alarms and the composition of a firehouse by

¹⁷It was evident in discussions and observations that tensions among the men mounted, that tempers flared, disagreements multiplied and horseplay erupted when such a lag of work would develop or when a usually busy company would suddenly find itself with fewer alarms and less active work.

companies with various types of work and consequently with varying numbers of alarms and varying lengths of time spent out of the firehouse. For example, some houses are composed of companies that respond to approximately the same number of alarms and stay for approximately the same length of time. Other houses have companies that do different kinds of work and are seldom called out together. Some firehouses have companies which respond to alarms often for either long or short periods of time; other companies assigned to the same firehouse have specialized work and respond seldom. This variance within a particular firehouse of the numbers of alarms and the lengths of time spent out of the firehouse might well affect any type of group activity engaged in during free time periods.

A restrictive factor on free time activity in the firehouse which can easily be overlooked is the matter of public opinion. In certain areas the personal appearance of the firemen when responding to alarms or emergencies forbids anything like disarranged clothing or greasy hands which come from work on automobiles, etc. In other areas, particularly slum areas, this requirement does not seem to be emphasized. Certain areas seem to be particularly susceptible to public opinion on the matter of work projects when on duty in the firehouse and even on the matter of playing handball, volley ball, horseshoes, and other forms of physical activity. Others seem completely oblivious of any public opinion on these matters, at least in the immediate vicinity of the firehouse to which they are assigned.¹⁸

¹⁸ These views were obtained in the interviews and discussions. One officer told of a complaint forwarded to him by his division officer. A man on his company had been working on his private car when he was called to a minor fire in

From these special difficulties in the matter of leisure time activities while on duty in the firehouse, it should be clear that the restrictions imposed upon the firemen in their use of this free time will have much influence on the types of activity they employ while it will also allow much variety throughout the department.

an apartment building. The occupant of the apartment in which there was a fire noticed the fireman leave a greasy fingerprint on a wall while moving a freezer and later sent a formal complaint on the matter to fire department headquarters. The result was that the regulations about such work while on duty was strictly enforced.

Others told of neighbors complaining that all the firemen ever did was work on their own cars and play ball, and that that was not what they were getting paid for. On the other hand, some companies did favors for neighbors of the firehouse, engaged in regular games of volley ball, horseshoes, etc., with their neighbors, and seemed to get along remarkably well. Some neighbors would even come to the firehouse and watch the contents while the firemen were out on fire duty.

CHAPTER II

METHODOLOGY

Leisure Time. No similar studies on leisure time and leisure time usages could be uncovered. The nearest studies to the subject of this thesis were on the social implications of card playing, drinking, leisure time for the aged, and leisure activities in general. No studies specifically dealing with the leisure time of firemen or of other civil protective agencies could be found. As a result, the examination and analysis of leisure activities in the social context of a fire department were developed in terms of these other leisure studies.

In the literature on leisure, leisure activities, and their implications, the confusion in the meaning of 'leisure' was apparent. Webster, for example, defines leisure as "time free from employment; convenience . . . unemployed."¹ The Dictionary of Sociology includes other elements: " . . . free time after the practical necessities of life have been attended to. . . . Conceptions of leisure vary from the arithmetical one of time devoted to work, sleep, and the other necessities, subtracted from twenty-four hours--which gives the surplus--time--to the general notion of leisure as the time which one uses as he

¹ Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 5th ed. (Springfield, Massachusetts, 1948), 573.

pleases."² Neumeyer, an authority on the sociological aspects of leisure and recreation, preferred to use the definition given in the Dictionary of Sociology and comment upon it rather than to develop a definition of his own.³

Such a course was also chosen for this thesis. Operationally, leisure is here defined as "that arithmetical surplus of time which one uses as he pleases." It includes the irregular number of hours in the firehouse when the fireman can choose more or less what he will do, subject, of course, to the restrictions imposed by being on duty. It excludes those hours he must work and those hours he must devote to eating, sleeping, and the other necessities of life in a firehouse. It includes also the entire forty-eight hour period he is off duty with the exceptions of the necessities of life and working for profit. If a fireman works for profit on his off-duty days, this is considered theoretically as a leisure activity, but the actual amount of time for leisure estimated by him does not include these hours worked.

The Sample. In the selection of a sample the 'unavailability' in the fire department of general information concerning the personal and social characteristics of the men required that the sample be based on the locations of the houses, the sizes of the houses in terms of numbers of men assigned to them, and the fire-fighting activities of the houses. Personal characteristics were included, therefore, in the schedule of the interview.

²Henry Pratt Fairchild, Dictionary of Sociology (New York, 1944), 175.

³Neumeyer, Leisure and Recreation, 14-17.

Approximately four thousand men are employed in the fire department.⁴

About 1340 of them are assigned to work on any given day. In seeking a relative homogeneity in the men working for the fire department it was considered desirable to exclude officers, engineers and certain others who gained promotions through competitive examinations, making it easier to examine the social factors as they influence leisure usage.

This reduced the single work day total of 1340 men by about 370 competitively won promotions. As a result, there would be about 970 firemen, ranking from candidate (a trial period lasting six months) through fireman third class, second class, and first class, all of which are automatic promotions based on the time-on-job element, and which include the entire age range employed by the fire department.

Another one hundred men, assigned as chauffeurs, ambulance attendants, or to one-, two- and three-men companies with specialized work, however, were found to have schedules so different from the ordinary fireman that their schedules

⁴The majority of fire department personnel are civil service employees. Certain administrative positions and other nonfire-fighting jobs are not civil service. Of the civil service employees, some do specialized work (e.g. maintenance and repair) and are not considered strictly fire department members.

The organization of the fire-fighting division of the department is as follows: Certain high officials respond to all major alarms throughout the city. Usually these officers and their chauffeurs are stationed downtown. The city is divided into certain major districts, each of these with an officer in charge and a chauffeur, usually stationed in a firehouse in that district. These districts in turn are subdivided into a number of minor districts, again each with a chief and his chauffeur assigned to a firehouse in that district. A firehouse might include anywhere from one to five companies, plus one or two chiefs or officials. A fire company has from two to seven men assigned to it. The areas served by individual companies within a firehouse vary and overlap among themselves as well as among companies from other houses and other minor and major districts of the city. Areas assigned to individual companies range from about six blocks square to over thirty blocks square.

would not be comparable to men even in the same house but on a different company. Chauffeurs spent much of the time other men had as leisure driving the officers around for inspection or other detail work in the district. They would sometimes sit outside a building in their cars listening to the department radio calls for hours. Ambulance attendants were subject to calls much more frequent and longer than normal fire-fighting companies. They would sometimes spend up to two hours administering oxygen to heart attack victims. The number of emergency runs for ambulances far outnumbered the number of calls for other men in the same firehouse.

Some of the men on specialized apparatus would spend days without any calls while others in the firehouse responded frequently but only for brief periods of time. Other men on specialized apparatus, (e.g., light wagons) might get a fair number of calls but remain on the scene long periods of time. These men assigned to specialized apparatus usually had particularly large areas to cover and for these reasons differed too much to be included in the final sampling.

One additional factor might have distorted the homogeneity of the sample. The fire department under consideration has racially segregated companies. Many of these Negro companies, however, have white officers and engineers. Of the 875 men still under consideration for the universe out of which the sample would be chosen, 44 were Negroes in predominantly Negro firehouses. To avoid any racial-cultural differences in leisure activity, Negro firemen were not included in the universe out of which the final sample was chosen. The 831 firemen remaining in the universe were, therefore, white firemen, assigned to firehouses on any given day, working on ordinary apparatus, assigned to six- or seven-man companies, and without any competitively won promotions.

The sample from this universe had to be chosen according to the distribution of the houses and the fire-fighting activities in the houses throughout the city. Three basic factors were considered in order to determine a representative sampling of firehouses and of firemen: first, the number of men assigned to the house; second, the average fire and special duty working time for the house and for the individual companies in the house; and, third, the location of the house and the areas assigned to each of the companies. These areas would include slum, residential, commercial and industrial, central, heart and fringe areas of the city, nationality locations, etc.

A card was drawn up for each of the approximately 140 firehouses, each having from one to five companies in it and from six to twenty-three men assigned to it. The number of men assigned to each company in the firehouse and the total number of men assigned to the firehouse were marked on the cards. The total number of hours worked on fire and special duty by each company and each firehouse were also marked on the cards. In addition the average number of hours worked for the entire firehouse and for only the six- and seven-men companies in the firehouse was determined and listed.

This made it possible to rank the firehouses in order according to numerical size, according to the numbers of hours worked by the six- and seven-men companies, and according to the average number of working hours for the entire firehouse. In addition, each card listed the address and type of area of the firehouse and other pertinent information. In getting a proportionate representation of men from large and small firehouses, from busy and slow houses, from busy and slow companies of the various types, and from different areas of the city a representative sample of the firemen in the universe could be

obtained.

In the final selection of houses to be used as sources for the interviews, certain ones had to be eliminated. Among these were fireboats because of the unusual living conditions of the men who must stay on the boat for the entire twenty-four hour period, and airport firehouses whose companies respond only to airport alarms. Also eliminated were firehouses to which new companies had been assigned within the six months previous to the interviews, and houses operating only on a temporary basis while new quarters were being built.

Certain companies were excluded from working time considerations in determining the sample. These were specialized units such as smoke ejectors and foamite units which operated only irregularly. The men used to bring these units into operation were usually supplied either from the fire location itself, or from additional personnel from the repair shops or from some other house.

Some few changes in the number of men to be interviewed in the predetermined firehouses had to be made during the course of the interviews due to such factors as understaffing because of furloughs or special details to other companies or projects. As a result, a total of 126 men in 37 different firehouses was interviewed. This is twenty-six per cent of the city's firehouses and slightly over fifteen per cent of the white firemen assigned to work on any given day on six- or seven-man companies as permanently attached personnel ranging from candidate to fireman first class, proportionately distributed as to number of men in the firehouse, working time per firehouse and per company, area of the city, and from pumpers, trucks and rescue units.

See the tables in Appendix I for the distribution of the interviewees

according to these factors.⁵

The Interview. At first it was thought that questionnaires distributed to the men by the officers of each company and returned by the men to these officers would allow for a much more thorough coverage of more factors influencing leisure time and uses. Variations in the rapport between men and officers in various houses and distrust by some of the men of anything resembling a departmental investigation, however, made it necessary to use the personal interview in order to better assure truthfulness in answers. Even then, much reluctance to be interviewed was encountered. In some cases as much as two hours were spent in friendly conversation before some of the men were ready to be interviewed. In other cases, the fact that the interviewer was a seminarian and wearing the Roman collar was apparently enough to dispel fears that someone was 'trying to get the dope on us and cause trouble.' In one case a fireman refused to be interviewed and gave religious differences as the reason. One or two other refusals could possibly be traced to the Roman collar, but on the whole no significant difficulty seemed to be found in the interviews because of the religious factor.

It should be mentioned that firemen are not without reason in their fears of interviews. They are subject to criticism and investigations due to the nature of their work, the hours they must work, etc. Apparently there have been occasions when someone would interview or observe them and then publish matter

⁵Records for the working time for each company, the numbers of men assigned to the different companies, the locations of the companies and firehouses, the types of areas served by and surrounding the houses, as well as all information on specialized units and houses with significant differences, were obtained from the fire alarm offices.

taken out of context as an 'expose.'

The interview schedule was designed to discover the attitudes of the firemen toward leisure time, how this time was used, whether the particular leisure usages were related to personal advancement or to personal problems, whether there existed differences in leisure activities when on duty and when off duty, and whether any specific work factors could be shown to be related to specific leisure usages or attitudes in the firehouse.

Work variables such as type of work, type of area served, type of area in which firehouse was located, and length of actual working time were gathered in fire department offices. Personal variables of age, nationality, marital status, size of family, education and length of service were included in the interview schedule. Each interview began with this matter of personal background because of the relative ease with which the information could be gained and because this could serve as an easy introduction to the interview for the interviewee.

In the course of the interview the fireman was asked to estimate the amount of free time he thought he had while on duty in the firehouse. Then he was asked to rate from one to four the chief ways he used this time. Since conversations or 'bull sessions' in the department vernacular no doubt took up a good part of the firemen's work day free time, specific questions were asked about the subjects of the conversation, the amount of enjoyment connected with them, and the reasons for this enjoyment or non-enjoyment.

Specific questions were also asked about the use of free time in the firehouse for additional study of hydraulics and other fire-fighting techniques. Inquiries were made about the enjoyment and satisfaction connected with the use

of firehouse free time, the possibility of personal advancement or problems being connected with this use, and their preferences, suggestions, etc. Since there was the possibility that leisure time usages in the firehouse might have changed for those firemen who had been transferred from one company or house to another, or simply over a period of time on the same company or in the same firehouse, this subject was also discussed.

The second section of the interview concerned leisure time and leisure usages for the firemen on their forty-eight hours off duty and away from the firehouse. The same subjects were discussed as for those days when on duty in the firehouse. Two additional questions were asked: first, whether or not the firemen used off duty free time in work for profit; second, whether the reason for any work they did for profit on their off duty days was financial or otherwise.

In the final section of the interview the fireman was asked about his occupation before becoming a fireman, his leisure time usages then, his reasons for joining the fire department, and his satisfaction with the job at the present.

When these particular subjects and questions had been determined as necessary and sufficient for the purpose of this research, the interview schedule was pretested for understanding and content with twenty firemen in firehouses which would not be used in the sample. After some changes the final schedule was adopted.

In order to gain entrance to some firehouses during the pretesting, it was found necessary to present the letter of introduction from the head of the department to the officer in charge. To encourage free expression on the part of the interviewees, it was also found helpful and sometimes necessary in the

pretesting to present this letter of introduction to the interviewee and to arrange to interview the men alone and away from the presence of their officers.⁶ These patterns were followed in the interviewing of the men in the sample upon which data are based.

In the pretesting it was also discovered that some men might be in bed, reading in a back room or basement, or engaged elsewhere, and therefore a fair sampling of the men in the firehouse could not be obtained merely on an at random basis. For this reason the roster of all the men on the six- and seven-men companies in the firehouse was consulted, and their ages, fire experience and nationality were determined immediately after the cooperation of the officer in charge had been won. The men to be interviewed on each company were then chosen in proportion to the information we had. With very few exceptions, the men selected were made available and were interviewed.

From the experience gained in the pretesting a definite procedure was developed for administering the interviews. First, it was apparent that the explanations given by the officer when he called the man, either singly or in groups, was not enough.⁷ A definite introduction to the interview had to be

⁶Approximately ten per cent of the officers were rather hesitant to allow the interviews, but seemed to think it was no longer their responsibility after reading the letter of introduction. A few officers wanted to be present during the interviews; as a result, the purpose of the study had to be emphasized again, and assurances made that nothing the men said could ever be traced back to them. In most cases the officers cooperated well and supplied suitable private quarters for the interviews, from clearing out the kitchen to providing their own offices.

⁷The cooperation of the officers in making the men available ranged from telling the interviewer he was welcome to try if he could find someone around who was willing, to the officer who rang the alarm, had the men stand at attention while he introduced them and gave their personal data and backgrounds, and had them wait on the floor until all of the interviews were finished.

given on an individual, personal basis with each of the interviewees. The purpose of the study was explained, the interviewer's understanding and familiarity with the department and firemen was indicated, and assurances were made that the study was not of or for the fire department, and that none of the final tabulated data could be traced back to individual firehouses, fire companies, or individual firemen. Some of the men were visibly relieved after this introduction; others volunteered that they did not worry about such things.

Certain questions in the pretesting caused obvious emotional reactions, so it was decided to make as much of the interview as possible through conversation rather than in a question-answer form. In the pretesting, for example, a majority of the men reacted to the question about nationality and ancestry. Perhaps this was due to the predominance of one nationality throughout the department, particularly in certain areas. However, the subject of nationality was reworked and served as a good place for the interviewer to comment in a light vein, and then to proceed with the interview on a much less formal and more conversational basis.

Some men showed embarrassment at the question about education. The very young men who had not finished high school and the older men who apparently had spent some time in consideration of 'what might have been', seemed particularly susceptible. To overcome this obstacle and to maintain an informal atmosphere, as much humor as decorously possible was injected into the first few questions.

To orientate matters in the second part of the interview, the first subject discussed was an estimation of the amount of free time the fireman thought he had in the firehouse. The words 'free time' were deliberately used because of connotations associated with 'leisure' which some of the firemen objected to

during the pretesting. 'Leisure' seemed to imply too much that could not be reconciled with being on call and subject to irregular working hours. 'Free time' was explained to them as that time in which they had no specific jobs or duties to perform.

It should be noted that at all times in the firehouse one man is on duty to listen to alarms throughout the city on the various official communications systems. Because this duty allows the men to read, work crossword puzzles, or even to play cards or ping pong, etc., this time was included in the periods called 'free time.'⁸

Following the discussions about free time uses, conversations, etc., if the interview was going well and in a relaxed atmosphere, the subject was usually turned to the relation of free time and free time uses to personal advancement and personal problems. If the interview seemed still on a too formal basis, this subject was put off until later in the interview schedule. In the pretesting it was found that commanded loyalties of various sorts caused much hesitation on this subject.

The final subject in this section of the interview concerned the fireman's own preferences and recommendations for the use of free time in the firehouse. In the pretesting it seemed some firemen regarded any suggestions or recommendations of their own on this subject as criticism of the officers or department and hesitated to make any. Their discussion of this subject tended to take the form of difficulties and objections that would be raised if things were done any

⁸Usually the officer or officers took this watch duty during the daytime hours. The other firemen would take turns from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., dividing the watches into two, three, or four hour shifts.

differently. As a result, unless suggestions or recommendations for the use of free time in the firehouse were volunteered, a question was usually phrased in this way: "If you were the chief of your own fire department somewhere else and you did not have to worry about public opinion or politicians, financing, etc., would there be anything you would do or recommend for your men in the free time they had in the firehouse?"

At this point in the interview the men were told that they would continue discussing free time and free time uses, but on the forty-eight hours off duty. It was found helpful to again mention the purpose of the study and the value in comparing free time uses under different conditions. Working for profit on off-duty days was explained as just another way of using this time.

If the interviewee stated that he had financial reasons for working on his off day, further discussion was attempted on the matter of major expenses, such as payments on homes, cars, etc. The rest of the interview on off-duty free time proceeded the same as the previous section of free time in the firehouse. As the interviews progressed, however, it became clear that visiting and driving would have to be made separate categories of free time uses.

Usually by the time the subject of off-duty free time related to personal advancement and problems came up, the interview was proceeding as informally and friendly as would be expected. If this subject had been postponed from the previous section on firehouse free time, it was now discussed. If, however, the interviewee had reacted defensively or otherwise unfavorably to the subject of free time uses and places for spending free time, the discussion of free time related to personal advancement or problems was again put off until later in the interview.

By this time in the interview, a number of the firemen appeared to be growing a bit weary; it was then mentioned that only a brief section of the interview schedule remained to be covered. These last few subjects of discussion then proceeded easily. Usually discussion of the fireman's attitude toward and satisfaction with his job at the present was begun by the question: "How important would you say your job is to you right now? That is, do you ever think of changing jobs, consider other jobs, or actually go around looking for some other job?"

After the interview as such was over, the firemen would frequently want to continue talking about the job, discussing problems that came up on the job, or go back to something we had discussed earlier. On numerous occasions these post-interview conversations helped answer questions more fully, and the information thus obtained was later marked on the interview schedule.

In the majority of interviews, the interviewer had the interview schedule before him and checked off answers as the discussion covered them. In some few cases when the fact the interviewer was checking off answers made the interviewee obviously nervous or concerned, or when the interviewee attempted to read the schedule to see the possible categories or what was coming up next, the schedules were put away after the first section on background information and personal data, and the interview proceeded strictly on a conversation basis with some few necessary questions. The interview schedule was immediately filled out after the interview.

The average time for each interview was from twenty-five to thirty minutes. About eight per cent of the interviews were made in fifteen to twenty minutes, and about ten per cent took from thirty minutes to an hour to complete. On some

occasions the men seemed to enjoy the interview and discussion as a chance to gripe or to be heard; others took the opportunity to discuss personal problems ranging from trouble with the wife to the problems of new candidates in adjusting to the department work conditions and of 'old times' in looking back on the past.

All of the interviews were administered in a four week period during the summer of 1959. The time given to the actual interview used as the sample was about seventy hours. At least three times this amount of time was spent in travel about the city to various firehouses and in waiting for a company to return when it was called to duty during the interviews. Additional time was spent in the firehouse where much conversation and getting acquainted was necessary before reliable information could be hoped for.

Beyond any doubt, the two greatest difficulties faced in administering the interviews were in those first few minutes after entering the house and in talking to the officer or officers in charge about the study, and in those sections of the interview discussing the relation of leisure time and leisure usages to personal advancement and problems. In the pretesting and during the actual interviews, some firemen stated that the fact that the study was limited only to firemen and that we discussed free time related to personal problems and advancement might be very critical of the fire department. There was also a marked difference in reactions to discussing this subject about on-duty and off-duty days. It was significant that many men would discuss the subject in relation to themselves, but would refuse to discuss it in relation to any others.

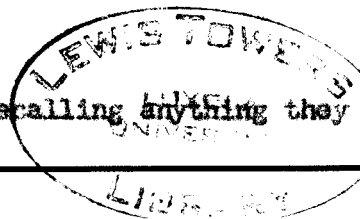
On the subject of leisure and personal problems and advancement for other firemen they knew, many men would unhesitatingly state they knew of no problems

ever caused, and not even discuss advancement. Others would state they knew of no problems being caused, then volunteer more information, and later change their opinion and state that free time uses have caused problems. Others would simply state that they would not want to judge others, but added that, of course, they knew of problems being caused by free time uses.

From cross-checking interviews obtained in some of the firehouses, it was clear that some of the hesitancy of the men might have been caused by recent cases of alcoholism or women-trouble of an individual the men would rather not speak about. There were isolated cases in which the interviewee would emphatically volunteer that free time for the firemen does not cause problems and that drinking is not a problem of firemen. He would be followed by another interviewee who would volunteer the information that the individual just interviewed had a problem with drink himself.

Sequences such as this made it even more evident that the writer could not hope to get accurate data on specific uses of free time, whether in the firehouse or off duty. That some men would not give accurate information on specific uses, coupled to the fact that it would be extremely difficult for a man to accurately rate the specific uses of his free time, made it necessary to attempt to rate merely the types of activity engaged in. In these sections of the interview, the discussion was in general terms about what they did with their free time, and then about which activities took up most of the time. In almost all cases the activities or inactivities they would group as the most time-consuming could easily be placed in one of the four categories we had determined upon: active, semiactive, semipassive and passive.

At first a number of the men had difficulty even recalling anything they



Sixteen men in ten of the thirty-seven firehouses visited refused to be interviewed. Not all of those who refused would have been selected in the final sample; nor is it known if there were other firemen who would have refused but were passed over in selecting the interviewees for each house.

Of the sixteen men who refused to be interviewed, four were reported by other firemen to have trouble with drink. Five men were asleep in bed and refused to get up when the officer called or sent for them. One man was reading in bed and refused to be interviewed. One man refused on the basis of religious differences. One man was watching TV and refused.¹⁰ Four were doing nothing in

¹⁰This man was in a situation where the following happened. While the majority of the officers were cooperative and some few merely consented to allow their men to be interviewed, there was one officer who absolutely refused to let his men be interviewed. He told the interviewer that he wanted to verify the letter of introduction from the head of the department and the signature.

Firemen under this officer heard no conversation and while he was telephoning they engaged in friendly discussion with the interviewer. About fifteen minutes later, when they learned the purpose of the interviews and while the officer was on the phone, they invited the interviewer into a back room where the selection of interviewees was made on the basis of information the men themselves supplied, and where the interviews then began with the officer's knowledge but without his approval.

Only once did the officer appear on the scene, and then to demand to be present during the interviews. The interviewer explained how this would ruin the validity of the data and again discussed the purpose of the interviews. The officer returned to the telephone. When the interviews were finished two hours later, the officer was still on the phone. Another officer in the same house stayed upstairs and refrained from comment.

All of the men but one interviewed in that firehouse volunteered the information that their greatest complaint and dissatisfaction was with their officer who refused to have drills or practice of any type because, in their opinion, he was incompetent and knew little of modern fire-fighting techniques.

When the interviews were continued the next day in the same general section of the city, three firehouses were completely unreceptive to the interviewer. All three of them eventually became more friendly and the necessary interviews

particular but refused to have anything to do with the study. There were also firehouses in which the men were at first very wary about any such study, but in all of them the atmosphere became more friendly, except for the sixteen men.

were obtained. In one of these houses was the man watching TV who refused to be interviewed. When the interviewer appeared and presented the letter of introduction, the officer in charge replied: "Yes, we've heard about you and what you're trying to do. We want nothing to do with investigations detrimental to the fire department." His men had been ordered by him to refuse to be interviewed. After friendly conversation and discussion about the study and data obtained, the officer finally relented and the only refusal was the man watching TV.

In discussions at this firehouse and at others the same day and on succeeding days, it was discovered that the officer who spent so much time checking the validity of the letter of introduction with the department headquarters had actually been calling up his friends in the department, inquiring whether the interviewer had been there yet, and warning them about 'what he is trying to do.'

CHAPTER III

THE INTERVIEW FINDINGS

General Characteristics. The one hundred and twenty-six white firemen interviewed, nonofficers, and nonengineers assigned permanently to six- and seven-men companies, serve as the basis for the following information. While the sample is believed to be representative of the study group, much caution must be used in attempting to picture the 'average fireman,' to generalize, or to interpret for the entire group. Implications of this data relative to the entire group of over eight hundred firemen in our classification who work on any given day, or even to the approximately twenty-five hundred firemen in the classification who will work over a period of three twenty-four hour days, must be made with extreme caution.

The majority of the firemen interviewed had worked as laborers, either skilled or nonskilled, before joining the fire department. Very few had held jobs which might be termed white collar positions or were in business for themselves. Fifty-seven of the men (45 per cent) had worked previously as skilled laborers, (s.g., plumbers, carpenters, cement finishers, mechanics, brick layers, etc.). Fifty-one of the men (40 per cent) had worked as unskilled laborers. Their jobs ranged from construction work to janitoring, from factory assembly lines to juke box and pinball machine coin collecting. In addition

twenty-one men (17 per cent) had worked as drivers in local hauling and delivery, (e.g. bakery goods, milk, furniture movers, and cab drivers).¹ Three men (2 per cent) had jobs inspecting materials in factory production. Two men had left school to join the department. One man had been a supervisor of personnel. One man stated merely that he had 'loafed' before becoming a fireman. Previous occupations of the firemen were chiefly as laborers; less than five per cent of the firemen had held positions other than laborer.

TABLE I
PREVIOUS OCCUPATIONS OF FIREMEN

Previous Occupations	Number of Responses ^a	Per cent of 126 Firemen
Laborer	108	85.8
Skilled	57	45.5
Unskilled	51	40.4
Drivers	21	16.7
Inspectors	3	2.4
Student	2	1.6
Supervisor	1	0.8
Unemployed	1	0.8

^aSome of the interviewees gave more than one previous occupation; thus the discrepancy between the total 126 interviews in the sample and the total number of previous occupations listed.

The reasons these men had for joining the fire department were almost as numerous as their previous occupations. The men are chiefly a security seeking

¹This approximates the number of men who listed driving as a time-consuming leisure activity on off-duty days.

group.

Eighty-one of the men (64 per cent) stated that security offered by the fire department under civil service regulations was an important consideration in their choice of work. Usually this was stated in terms of regular work, regular pay, regular hours, or simply of not being able to be fired or suspended without recourse to the courts. Twenty-four men (19 per cent), some of them included in the above mentioned eighty-one men who considered the security, also stated that the 'better pay' was an influential consideration.²

The men also claimed various personal reasons for joining the fire department. Forty-nine men (39 per cent) listed excitement in working at fires, adventure, or 'interest' in the type of work done by firemen as motivating factors in their choice of work.³ Twenty-three men (18 per cent) claimed loyalties to the fire department developed by relatives or friends on the department as influential in their choice. Only eleven men (9 per cent) said that promotional opportunities were an important consideration. Three men (2 per cent) mentioned that more free time during their working hours influenced them. Five others (4 per cent) said they chose the fire department because the work was 'easier.' Perhaps they were referring to added free time when on duty in the firehouse.⁴

²There is reason to believe that what some of these men meant by 'better pay' included the added income from second jobs. The average fireman earned about \$5000 per year from the fire department. Sixteen of these twenty-four men stated the possibility of a second job was an important consideration.

³Very few of the men listed excitement, adventure, etc., as a reason for their present satisfaction with the job later in the interviews.

⁴Only one man seemed to consider the job light heartedly and as a joke; "It's a vacation," were his words. Five of the men hinted at desire to 'loaf' as an influential factor in their decisions.

Various other personal reasons were given by the firemen, usually as additional influential considerations in their choice of the fire department. They were: 'dedicated life' and service to the community as a personal challenge (4 per cent); 'prestige of firemen' (2 per cent); 'as a lark' or on dares from the social group (2 per cent); and one per cent each: preference for outside work;⁵

TABLE II

REASONS FOR JOINING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Reasons	Number of Responses ^a	Per cent of 126 Firemen
Security	81	64.3
Better Pay	24	19.2
Excitement	49	38.9
F. D. Loyalties	23	18.3
Promotions	11	8.7
Easier Work	5	4.0
'Dedication'	5	4.0
More Free Time	3	2.4
Prestige	3	2.4
On Dares	3	2.4
Only Job	2	1.6
Outside Work	1	0.8
Team Work	1	0.8
No Politics	1	0.8
More Time Home	1	0.8
Wife Decided	1	0.8
No Public	1	0.8
Wrong Application	1	0.8

^aSome interviewees listed more than one reason; thus the discrepancy between the total interviews and total reasons.

⁵This is interesting because of the great amounts of time the fireman must spend indoors, both in the firehouse and sometimes at fires. Probably he meant heavy work in various places and situations.

impressed by 'team work' of firemen, only available job, 'had thought' the fire department was free from politics, 'escape from the public;'⁶ more time to be with family at home; had always chased fire engines and decided 'to get paid for it;' applied for all civil service jobs and wife picked fire department; filled out fire department application by mistake when trying to join police department.

When discussing how importantly the men regarded their jobs at the time of the interviews, one hundred and eleven of the one hundred and twenty-six men interviewed (88 per cent) said it was very important to them and that they would not even consider another job.⁷ Eleven men (9 per cent) placed some importance on their jobs, but said they would willingly take something else if it offered more pay, better hours, or better promotional opportunities. Only four of the men (3 per cent) said their job had little or no importance for them, that they would gladly take another job, or that they were actually looking for something else at the time.⁸

A thirty-six year age span covered all the men interviewed. Their ages ranged from twenty-three to fifty-nine years. Over half of them (54 per cent)

⁶This particular man had once been a salesman, and claimed he joined the fire department because he had to deal only with a few individuals on the job.

⁷Though many of the firemen could not form an explicit reason for the degree of importance they placed on their jobs, security was again mentioned most often by those who rated their jobs 'very important.' Others explained their feelings as: "You get used to it;" "It's my life;" and frequently enough, "You get into a rut."

⁸The chief reasons given by those who claimed only some, little or no importance for their jobs were dissatisfaction with their salaries or with promotional opportunities. A good number of the men claimed: "It isn't what you know, but who you know," in getting promotions. One man stated rather bluntly: "The glamor were off."

were in the youngest ten years.⁹ Forty-one of the firemen (33 per cent) were in the age group twenty-nine to thirty-three years; twenty-six men (21 per cent) were from twenty-four to twenty-eight years of age; one man was twenty-three. Sixty-eight firemen were in the age group twenty-three to thirty-three years. Seventeen of the firemen (13 per cent) were from thirty-four to thirty-eight; twenty-four men (19 per cent) from thirty-nine to forty-three; seven men (6 per cent) from forty-four to forty-eight; five men (4 per cent) from forty-nine to fifty-three; four men (3 per cent) from fifty-four to fifty-eight; one man was fifty-nine years of age.

TABLE III
SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY AGE

Age Group	Number of Firemen	Per cent of 126 Firemen
Under 24	1	0.8
24 to 28	26	20.6
29 to 33	41	32.5
34 to 38	17	13.5
39 to 43	24	19.0
44 to 48	7	5.6
49 to 53	5	4.0
54 to 58	4	3.2
Over 58	1	0.8
Total	126	100.0

⁹In conferences with fire department officials it was learned that they regarded the fire department as a 'young department' in terms of both ages of the men and time on job.

The great majority of the firemen interviewed (98 per cent) were second generation Americans or more. Only two men (2 per cent) were not born and raised in this country; both of them were from Ireland. Thirty-six of the men (29 per cent) had at least one parent born in this country; thirty-four men (27 per cent) had at least one grandparent born in this country; seven men (6 per cent) could trace their American born ancestry beyond two generations. Forty-seven of the men (37 per cent) were not sure how far back their American born ancestry went.¹⁰

TABLE IV
SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY GENERATIONS
BORN IN AMERICA

Generations American	Number of Firemen	Per cent of 126 Firemen
First Generation	2	1.6
Second Generation	36	28.5
Third Generation	34	27.0
Fourth Generation	7	5.6
Uncertain	47	37.3
Total	126	100.0

The majority of the men, ninety-three (74 per cent), had the same ancestral nationality on both sides of their family. Thirty-one (25 per cent) were Irish on both sides; fifteen (12 per cent) were German; fifteen (12 per cent) were Polish; eight (6 per cent) were Italian; four (3 per cent) were from the

¹⁰From the discussions with most of these men who were unsure, grandparents at least were thought to have been born in this country.

Scandinavian countries; thirteen (10 per cent) were Eastern European; six (5 per cent) were Central European other than German, Polish, and Italian; one man (1 per cent) was Celtic other than Irish. Of the men who had at least one parent foreign-born and with the same nationality on both sides of the family, the nationalities were well distributed over all those mentioned above with the exceptions of other Celtic and other Central European.

It seemed that those who had at least one parent foreign-born and with the same nationality on both sides of their families were much more aware of nationality differences.¹¹ Half of those who had two or more nationalities in their backgrounds did not know how many generations in their family lines had been born in this country. Of the other half with two or more nationalities, the majority knew that both parents were born in this country and that at least one grandparent was foreign-born. Four of those men with a combination of national backgrounds had at least one parent foreign-born. Two of the men with combination national backgrounds knew that both parents and at least one grandparent were born in this country.

The majority of the men were second generation Americans with the same national backgrounds on both sides of their families. These men were still aware of nationality differences and many of them commented upon the fact that the fire department was at one time or to some extent still was 'Irish.'

¹¹ It was these men who without difficulty would answer questions about nationality and the number of generations born in this country. Others usually had to stop and think. The men with the same national ancestry on both sides and with at least one parent foreign-born were the ones who would comment either seriously or in fun: "There aren't many of us in the department;" "We're running the fire department;" and other similar remarks. Less awareness of nationality differences was observable in the other men.

However, the number of men who were third or more generation Americans who had at least two nationalities in their ancestry closely approximated the number of those who were second generation Americans with the same national backgrounds on both sides of their families.

Relative experience on the fire department was in accord with the data obtained on the ages of the men and with the opinion registered by the fire department officials in conferences previous to the interviews.¹² The total number of men interviewed who had no more than five years experience on the job was sixty-eight (54 per cent).¹³ Eleven of the men (9 per cent) were candidates, that is probationary firemen in their first six months on the job. Three others (2 per cent) had from seven to eleven months on the job. Fifty-four of the firemen interviewed (43 per cent) had from one to five years experience as a fireman. Twenty-five men (20 per cent) had from six to ten years on the job; fifteen men (12 per cent) had from eleven to fifteen years; twelve men (10 per cent) from sixteen to twenty years; and six men (5 per cent) had more than twenty years service on the fire department.

The great majority of the men interviewed had been assigned to their present quarters for a sufficient length of time to allow adjustment to any normal

¹²See Table V, Distribution of Sample by Time on Job, on page 46. In conferences with fire department officials before undertaking the study, while no specific data were obtained, these men did state their belief that the fire department was becoming a new department in the matter of age and time on the job.

¹³This should be remembered when considering the attitudes of the men toward leisure time and leisure time usages. The older men would very frequently answer questions or discuss the situation in phrases such as: "fit in a rut;" "get into a rut," etc. The younger men, if they used this phraseology, would qualify it by saying: "They say you fit into the rut," etc.

situational differences between various companies and houses. Therefore, newness of quarters or unfamiliarity with a new group of men should not have distorted the general picture of leisure and leisure uses and attitudes registered by the men interviewed. Sixty-four men (51 per cent) had never been transferred from the company to which they were first assigned after their days in the drill school. The other sixty-two men (49 per cent) had received transfers at some time from another company in another firehouse to the one to which they were assigned at the time of the interviews. Of these sixty-two men, two had also transferred from one company to another within the same firehouse. Four of these sixty-two men had been assigned to their present companies for only six months; eight more men had spent less than two years on their present companies. The other fifty men (81 per cent of the 49 per cent who had been transferred at some time) received their transfers anywhere from two to twenty-two years ago.

TABLE V

SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY TIME ON JOB

Time on Job:	All Firemen in Sample	
	Number of Firemen	Per Cent of 126 Firemen
Less than Six Years		
1 to 6 months	11	8.7
7 to 11 months	3	2.4
1 to 5 years	54	42.8
Subtotal	68	53.9
More than Six Years		
6 to 10 years	25	19.8
11 to 15 years	15	11.9
16 to 20 years	12	9.5
21 to 27 years	6	4.8
Subtotal	58	46.1
Total	126	100.0

Only the eleven candidates plus four other firemen (12 per cent) had been assigned to their present companies less than a year.

The firemen interviewed were by far 'family men,' in the sense that they do get married, raise children, and try to own their own homes. This is important when comparing their leisure uses on duty in the firehouse with the uses off duty and away from the firehouse. Only ten of the one hundred and twenty-six men interviewed (8 per cent) had never married. Six of these were in the twenty-four to twenty-nine age group. Two were in the twenty-nine to thirty-three age group. Some of these stated that they were actually engaged or planning to marry at the time of the interviews. Only two of the unmarried men might be called 'professional bachelors,' that is men unmarried and over fifty years of age.

Thirty-nine firemen (31 per cent) had been married from seven to twelve years; thirty-six (29 per cent) had been married less than seven years. The majority of the firemen, seventy-five (60 per cent) had been married less than thirteen years. Seventeen men (13 per cent) had seen thirteen to eighteen years of married life; twelve men (10 per cent) from nineteen to twenty-four years; nine men (7 per cent) from twenty-five to thirty years and three men (2 per cent) from thirty-one to thirty-three years.

Three men (2 per cent) were widowers, and two of these had remarried. One man was separated from his wife and children, and was attempting reconciliation at the time of the interviews. One man had divorced his wife and remarried another woman.

The number of children each fireman had ranged from none to eight. Some of the children were grown and self-supporting; one man was raising and supporting

the children of a relative in addition to his own. Six married men (5 per cent of the married men) had no children; most of these stated they intended to have children or were actually expecting a child at the time of the interviews. Ten married men (9 per cent of the married men) had no dependent children living at home; twenty-seven men (21 per cent of those married) had one dependent child; thirty-seven (29 per cent of the married) had two dependent children; twenty-four men (19 per cent of the married) had three dependent children; thirteen men (10 per cent of the married) had four dependent children; two men (2 per cent of the married) had five dependent children; two men had six dependent children; one man had seven dependent children living at home.

Forty-two firemen (36 per cent of the married men) raised and supported three or more children each for a total of one hundred and fifty-three children; seventy-nine firemen (68 per cent of the married men) raised and supported two or more children for a total of two hundred and twenty-seven children. Though no one had more than seven dependent children at the time of the interviews, one man had had eight children. The number of children dependent upon the fireman and living at home, and therefore who come into immediate play in that fireman's life when off duty, will have some influence on the way that fireman spends his free time when off duty.

In addition to being family men raising children, the firemen interviewed also seemed in general to have ambitions to own their own homes. Most of these were interested in one-family homes. A number of them, however, showed some interest in investing in two-flats or small apartment buildings.

Sixty-seven of the men interviewed (53 per cent) were making payments on homes. Another twenty-five men (20 per cent) stated that they "owned their own

homes," although this might have included also some men who belonged in the above category of still making payments on homes.¹⁴ Whether the firemen actually owned or were making payments on homes, this factor could play an important part in the way they would use much of their free time when off duty. Homes that were or would someday be their own could occupy much time in maintenance, repair work, and improvements, even after a day at a second job.¹⁵

Sixteen men (13 per cent) were making regular payments on automobiles and eleven men (9 per cent) were making payments on other major items, such as washing machines, television sets, furniture, etc. Only fifteen men (12 per cent) stated that they were making no payments on any major household items.¹⁶ Whether a fireman was buying a home or other major household items on time could be an understandable reason for working at a second job on off-duty days.

Educationally, the majority of the firemen had attempted but not succeeded in some educational program, in either high school or a college. There were thirty-nine high school 'dropouts' and thirty-two college withdrawals. Many men, especially when discussing study of fire-fighting techniques, claimed that they

¹⁴A misunderstanding about the word 'owned' in relation to owning homes was not discovered until a number of the interviews had been completed. Some of the men who were actually making payments on homes probably stated that they 'owned' their own homes, and no further questions were asked of them about payments in this regard.

¹⁵This subject was further discussed in relation to satisfaction with free time uses the fireman feels on duty and when off duty.

¹⁶Possibly there were more men making payments on automobiles and other major household items. Some of them reacted visibly to questions about personal financing beyond the matter of their homes, and further discussion on this subject was then dropped in the interest of preserving the integrity of the discussion of other subjects which were of more specific value to the main purpose of the study.

'couldn't study,' 'were ill-adapted,' 'couldn't sit still,' 'mind wanders,' and other similar expressions of frustration in this regard. However, the number of men who had taken isolated courses in trade, technical, and business fields, the number of men who expressed hope that some day they would further their education, and the number of men who discussed the trouble and expense involved in giving their children a proper education, indicated the respect with which they regard this field.¹⁷

All of the one hundred and twenty-six firemen interviewed had finished eight years of grammar school. All but four of these (97 per cent) had entered high school. Two of the four men who had not entered high school had not attempted any further education beyond the eight years; the other two had taken isolated courses in business and technical schools. Of the one hundred and twenty-two men who had entered high school, eighty-three (68 per cent of the entrants; 66 per cent of the firemen interviewed) finished high school. Thirty-two of these high school graduates (39 per cent of the graduates; 25 per cent of the firemen) entered college, but none of them graduated or received a degree. One man who had not finished high school later enrolled in a college, but dropped out after a semester. Thirty-four of the men (27 per cent of the firemen) had taken isolated courses in trade, technical or business schools. One man (1 per cent) was taking a correspondence course during the summer of the interviews. One man (1 per cent) was planning on quitting the fire department or

¹⁷ Though no questions were asked about this specific point, many of the men volunteered the information.

going on leave of absence, and trying a college education again.¹⁸

Perhaps we can legitimately describe the firemen interviewed as second or later generation Americans in their late twenties or early thirties, married and with children. Their difficulties with furthering their education have been evidenced by the large number of dropouts from high school and from college, but their respect for education is shown by their hopes, desires, and educational attempts.

The majority of the firemen were young and with relatively little time in the fire department. About half of them had had experience on companies and in firehouses other than where they were assigned at the time of the interviews. Most of them had worked at comparatively active occupations previous to joining the fire department. They chose the fire department chiefly because of security and pay, excitement, and other personal factors. Almost all the firemen regarded their work on the fire department as very important to themselves at the present and stated they would not consider any other job. Though some of them chose to explain this importance they felt for their jobs by such statements as "You learn to settle down," or "You get into the rut," security and other personal factors given for joining the fire department were also repeated.

In most cases the areas served by the firehouses or fire companies included residential, commercial and industrial for each, and frequently some slum and deteriorating neighborhoods. The area around the firehouse can have some

¹⁸One man not in the sample was reported to be a part-time college professor. The men who mentioned him did so with pride.
fe

influence on the types of activities utilized in free time as was seen above.¹⁹ The types of areas served and the area surrounding the firehouse were included in the interview schedule.

Of the one hundred and twenty-six firemen interviewed, the great majority, ninety men (71 per cent), were assigned to companies in residential areas or in areas which were a combination of residential and industrial or commercial. Twenty-eight of the men (22 per cent) were located in strictly residential areas; thirty men (24 per cent) were in residential-commercial neighborhoods; nine men (7 per cent) were in residential-industrial areas; five men (4 per cent) in deteriorating residential areas; and three men (2 per cent) in strictly slum neighborhoods. Five others (4 per cent) were assigned to deteriorating residential-commercial areas. Twenty-five men (20 per cent) were in predominantly commercial areas; seven men (6 per cent) in industrial areas; and four men (3 per cent) found themselves in industrial-commercial areas for their twenty-four hour period of work. It seemed those firemen in residential neighborhoods had more opportunities to talk with men other than firemen and to have other outside-the-firehouse interests when on duty, while those in predominantly industrial or commercial areas were more contained in the firehouse and consequently engaged in a form of leisure activity which was sometimes loud and boisterous.²⁰

¹⁹ See Chapter II. The types of areas served and in which the firehouse was located was usually asked either of the firemen during the interviews, or of an officer in charge before the interviews began. In some few cases the type of area in which the firehouse was located was observed by the interviewer as accurately as possible.

²⁰ These remarks are made strictly on the basis of observations made by the interviewer when in the firehouses.

Free Time Uses. It has been shown that the average fireman might have about nine hours per twenty-four hours on duty in the firehouse in which he can choose the type of activity or inactivity in which he will engage. The use of this free time, of course, must be restricted to what is available in the firehouse and to what is in accord with being on call at a moment's notice. This usually includes radio, television, reading (newspapers and magazines), 'bull sessions,' sometimes cards, pool, ping pong, handball, volleyball, horseshoes, automobile work, and even an occasional 'hobby shop.' Because it would be impossible to determine exactly what activities take up various amount of a fireman's time, we determined four categories on the basis of activity or passivity.

Each fireman was asked to rate from at least one to four the various ways in which he used his free time in the firehouse, according to the amounts of time he thought he gave to each. His activities were marked on the interview schedule as he gave them. Then, in tabulating the data, they were fit into one of the four categories: active, semiactive, semipassive and passive. Passive included radio, television, and any answer which implied 'loafing' or strictly doing nothing.²¹ Semipassive activities, that is those activities which required a bit more energy and initiative than the activities which were strictly passive, included conversation, 'bull sessions,' and casual reading.²² Pool,

²¹In conferences with fire department officials preparatory to the study, it was learned that I would constantly see some men at work on various projects while others would be able to 'lean on a window sill and just look for two to four hours.' These descriptions were not graphic exaggerations, as was observed in the course of the interviews.

²²In almost all cases in almost all the firehouses, the 'reading' consisted in newspapers and 'male' or adventure magazines. Some very few men were seen to be reading novels, religious newspapers and magazines, technical magazines psychology books, about hypnotism, television repair, etc.

pingpong, horseshoes, playing cards, working crossword puzzles, practicing musical instruments, and other light games and light work and hobbies were classified as semiactive because still more energy and initiative were required to instigate such activity. Concentrated study as a time-consumer was also listed as a semiactive activity. Cooking meals for the rest of the firemen,²³ handball, baseball, volleyball, either mechanical work on automobiles or washing or polishing them, and any other type of 'heavy' work was classified as active.

Of the one hundred and twenty-six firemen interviewed, fifty-eight (46 per cent) claimed that reading and conversation took up most of their free time. Thirty-nine men (31 per cent) said that radio, television or simply 'loafing' consumed most of their free time in the firehouse. A total of ninety-seven men, then (77 per cent) rated either one of the two passive categories as most time-consuming. Two men in each of the above groups (3 per cent) maintained that all of their free time was spent in that manner. Of the fifty-eight firemen who spent most of their free time reading or conversing, thirty-four (59 per cent of the fifty-eight) believed radio, television and loafing consumed the next greatest amount of their time. Of the thirty-nine men who rated radio, television and loafing as most time-consuming, twenty-five men (64 per cent of the thirty-nine) listed reading and conversation as the next greatest time-consumers. From another point of view, eighty-one men (64 per cent) listed radio, television and loafing as either first or second in the amounts of time they consumed.

²³ Cooking meals in the firehouse is on a volunteer basis. The cost for the meals is split among those men who prefer cooked meals, and almost all do. Usually one man does all the cooking. In some locations the men took turns for different meals, for various periods of time, or certain men would work together in groups on the meals, subject to the same variations as the individual cooks.

Ninety-eight men (78 per cent) rated reading or conversation either first or second in the amount of time consumed. Sixty-one men (48 per cent) believed the two passive categories (reading, conversation, radio, television, and loafing) consumed almost all of their free time in the firehouse, by rating them one-two in the amounts of time they consumed.

Only twenty-two men (17 per cent) rated free time usages in the active category as the most time consuming. Many of these men were firehouse cooks. Only seven men (6 per cent) listed activities in the semiactive category (light games, hobbies, etc.) as the most time-consuming for themselves. Sixteen men (13 per cent) listed active free time usages as the second greatest time-consumer. Twenty-two men (17 per cent) rated semiactive free time usages as the second greatest time-consumer. Only three men (2 per cent) rated the active and semiactive categories as one-two in the amounts of free time they consumed.

Six men (5 per cent) rated reading or conversation (semipassive) as the most time-consuming, and an active usage as the second greatest time-consumer. Seven men (6 per cent) rated radio, television and loafing as most time-consuming, and active usage of the time as the second greatest time-consumer. Fifteen men (12 per cent) rated reading and conversation (semipassive) as the greatest time-consumer, and semiactive usage as second. Five men (4 per cent) rated radio, television and loafing (passive uses) as first in the amount of time consumed, and semiactive uses as second. Thirteen men (10 per cent) rated active free time uses as first, and reading or conversation (semipassive) as second. Eight men (6 per cent) rated an active use as first, and radio, television and loafing (passive) as second in the amounts of free time consumed. Three men (2 per cent) rated semiactive activities as first, and semipassive activities as

second; only one man (1 per cent) rated semiactive uses as first, and passive free time uses as second in the amounts of free time consumed in the firehouse.

TABLE VI A

FREE TIME USAGE IN FIREHOUSE

Type of Activity	Frequency and per cent of men in sample who rated various activities as the first, second, and only free time consumer. ^a					
	First		Second		Only	
	Number of Firemen	Per Cent of 126 Firemen	Number of Firemen	Per cent of 126 Firemen	Number of Firemen	Per cent of 126 Firemen
Active	22	17.4	16	12.7	0	0.0
Semiactive	7	5.6	22	17.4	0	0.0
Semipassive	58	45.9	41	32.5	2	1.6
Passive	39	30.9	43	34.1	2	1.6
Either Active or Semiactive	29	23.0	38	30.1	0	0.0
Either Passive or Semipassive	97	76.9	84	66.6	4	3.2

TABLE VI B

FREE TIME USAGE IN FIREHOUSE

Type of Activity	Frequency and per cent of men in sample who rated various activities as either the first or second free time consumer.	
	Number of Firemen	Per cent of 126 Firemen
Active	38	30.1
Semiactive	29	23.0
Semipassive	99	78.5
Passive	82	65.0

TABLE VI C
FREE TIME USAGE IN FIREHOUSES

Type of Activity	Frequency and per cent of men in sample who rated combinations of various activity types first and second in order, together, and alone. ^a					
	First and Second in Order		Both First and Second		Only	
	Number of Firemen	Per cent of 126 Firemen	Number of Firemen	Per cent of 126 Firemen	Number of Firemen	Per Cent of 126 Firemen
Active and Semiactive	1	0.8	4	3.2	0	0.0
Active and Semipassive	13	10.3	19	14.9	5	4.0
Active and Passive	8	6.3	15	11.9	0	0.0
Semiactive and Active	3	2.4	4	3.2	0	0.0
Semiactive and Semi- passive	3	2.4	19	14.9	2	1.6
Semiactive and Passive	1	0.8	6	4.8	1	0.8
Semipassive and Active	6	4.8	19	14.9	5	4.0
Semipassive and Semi- active	16	12.7	19	14.9	2	1.6
Semipassive and Passive	24	27.0	59	46.7	20	15.8
Passive and Active	7	5.6	15	11.9	0	0.0
Passive and Semiactive	5	4.0	6	4.8	1	0.8
Passive and Semipassive	25	19.8	59	46.7	20	15.8

^aNot all interviewees claimed free time activities in more than one category; thus the discrepancy between total interviews and total ratings.

Only five men (4 per cent) claimed that they never engaged in conversation or 'bull sessions.' Usually they explained this by disgust or dissatisfaction with the ordinary subjects of conversation, or by statements which indicated shyness and introversion. Of the one hundred and twenty-one men who did engage

in conversations or 'bull sessions,' forty-seven men (39 per cent of the 121) stated that one of the subjects more frequently talked about was the fire department, fire department personnel, and fires. 'Rehashing' old fires seemed of particular interest to many of the men, especially older men on slower companies. They also liked to talk about men in the fire department, general events that occurred within the fire department, etc. Thirty-four men (28 per cent of those who admitted engaging in 'bull sessions' and conversations) stated that family life and home life, their families, children, homes, cars, and work on their homes, cars, and such subjects, were a frequent firehouse conversation subject. Twenty-eight men (23 per cent of those who conversed) stated that a frequent topic for their conversations and 'bull sessions' was women or girls. Twenty-four men (20 per cent) listed sports as a frequent topic; forty-three men (36 per cent) listed current events and general topics as a frequent subject of conversation and 'bull sessions' in the firehouse.

Seventy-seven men (61 per cent) stated that there were times when they did make an effort at concentrated study of the fire department and fire-fighting techniques. Very few of the men (approximately 5 per cent) did this regularly or with any kind of a schedule. For most of these men, study would begin by picking up a book that was handy and finding themselves reading it to pass the time. Frequently these brief periods of study or reading would lead to discussions with officers, engineers, or more experienced men rather than to continued study from books.

Men who were 'on watch' at night, that is men whose duty it was to sit and listen to alarms on the communication systems, also sometimes passed the time by reading or studying hydraulics, evolutions, fire department rules and

regulations, fire-fighting techniques, etc. Unless this was done with deliberation and concentration, it was not considered 'study' in this research. Forty-nine men (39 per cent) stated that they never used any of their free time in the firehouse in what could legitimately be called 'study.'

The greater part by far of the firemen interviewed spent most of their free time in the firehouse in what we have called either semipassive or completely passive leisure time usages. This includes reading of newspapers and magazines, conversation, listening to the radio or watching television, and passing the time by 'loafing.' Over one half of the men interviewed (67 men) indicated that some active or semiactive free time activity took up some part of their free time (work, cooking, light or heavy games, hobbies, study) by rating these first or second in the amounts of time consumed. Most of these men, however, spent most of their free time or a very significant part of it in one of the passive or semipassive uses for free time.

Any regular active or semiactive free time usage was very negligible. Activities in these two categories seemed to be haphazard rather than deliberate.²⁴ A pattern seemed to exist for one man to start a job or project and others to join him. On two occasions, at the time of the interviews, men claimed to work regularly each afternoon building speedboats from do-it-yourself kits; one man would buy the kit, and the others would help him build it. Study developed pretty much in the same way. One man would pick up a book and read or study it; he would become interested in some phase treated in the book, discuss

²⁴ Exceptions were: cooks, a few men with hobbies, musical instruments, wood-working, work on cars, gardening, odd jobs, and a few houses with regularly scheduled athletic games.

it with others, and the interest would spread, yet seldom to the point of getting others to use the book.

Almost all of the men regularly engaged in 'bull sessions.' The most frequently mentioned topic for conversation was the fire department and related subjects. Current events, family life and their homes were also much-discussed subjects in firehouse free time conversations.

Free Time Satisfaction. The majority of the firemen interviewed claimed a moderate degree of satisfaction when discussing the uses of their free time when on duty in the firehouse. Many explained it by saying they knew they "could do better" or would like to do better, but that they were still content with the ways they used the time.

A large number of men believed other firemen felt pretty much the same way and had the same degree of satisfaction with free time usage in the firehouse. The majority of the men again, had a preference for free time either in the firehouse or on off-duty days, rather than classify them both the same. The majority of the men rated their satisfaction with free time and free time uses on off-duty days as 'very much' while only a few men rated off-duty free time satisfaction as 'low,' something which was not unusual for firehouse free time satisfaction.

The general impression gained from these data on free time satisfaction is that the men in general prefer to say that they are satisfied with the way they use their free time in the firehouse, while at the same time they are more satisfied with their off-duty free time and feel some disturbance about the ways they use free time when on duty. A study of the following statistics should help exemplify this point.

The most satisfaction registered for free time uses in the firehouse was in connection with 'bull sessions' and conversations. Sixty of the men (48 per cent) said they were very much satisfied with the discussions in which they engaged in the firehouse. Thirty-four men (27 per cent) rated their 'bull session' satisfaction as 'somewhat.' Twenty-three men (18 per cent) preferred to rate their satisfaction with these conversations as 'just a little,' while only four men (3 per cent) said they felt no satisfaction at all with the conversations. This, of course, is in addition to the five men (4 per cent) who claimed to take no part in discussions.²⁵

Frequently additional questioning was needed to enable the interviewee to rate the fireman's general satisfaction with firehouse free time.²⁶ Sixty-four of the men (51 per cent) claimed to feel 'some' satisfaction with the way they used their free time in the firehouse. Thirty men (24 per cent) claimed that their satisfaction was 'very much.' Thirty-two men (25 per cent) stated that their satisfaction with free time and free time usage in the firehouse was very little or none at all.

On the other hand, seventy-two men (57 per cent) thought that other firemen

²⁵ Degrees of satisfaction were rated on a basis of four degrees; very much satisfied, somewhat satisfied, a little satisfied, and not at all. For some reason, possibly because they believed general free time usage reflected more on their jobs, the men seemed much more able and willing to rate satisfaction with conversation than with free time usage in general.

²⁶ Usually the man being interviewed would say either that he was satisfied or that he was not. Further questioning and discussion was designed to get him to rate his satisfaction in one of our four categories. A rating of 'somewhat' satisfied usually implied a desire to be doing 'better' or otherwise with the free time. Because the men tended to group 'little' or 'no' satisfaction together these were considered as one in tabulating these data.

were 'somewhat' satisfied with the way they used their firehouse free time. This is an increase of six per cent over those who rated their own satisfaction to the same degree. Thirty-two men (25 per cent) estimated the satisfaction of other firemen as 'very much,' an increase of one per cent over those who rated their own satisfaction to the same degree. Twenty-two men (17 per cent) rated the satisfaction of other firemen as 'little' or 'none at all.' This was a decrease of eight per cent under those firemen who rated their own satisfaction the same.

Obviously, the firemen were more ready to rate their own satisfaction as less than what they thought other firemen in general felt, while still maintaining that they were satisfied with their free time activities in the firehouse. Nineteen men (15 per cent) rated their own satisfaction as more than the average fireman's; thirty-one men (25 per cent) rated the satisfaction of other firemen as more than their own. Seventy-six men (60 per cent) rated the satisfaction other firemen felt with their firehouse free time activities the same as their own.

Another way of looking at this rating of firehouse free time satisfaction is to compare their degrees of satisfaction with firehouse free time usage with the degrees they gave to off-duty free time usage. Where only thirty men (24 per cent) rated on-duty free time satisfaction as 'very much,' seventy-one men (56 per cent) rated off-duty free time satisfaction as 'very much,' an increase of thirty-two per cent. Forty-nine men (39 per cent) rated off-duty free time satisfaction as 'somewhat.' Only six men (5 per cent) rated their off-duty free time satisfaction as 'very little' or 'none at all.' Thirty-two men (25 per cent) rated their on-duty free time satisfaction the same as when off-duty.

This is another indication that the men, while they prefer to say they are satisfied with their firehouse free time usage, actually prefer the ways they can use this time when off-duty, and are more satisfied with the ways they use their off-duty free time. Only seven men (6 per cent) rated free time satisfaction in the firehouse as more than when off-duty; sixty-one men (48 per cent), the majority of those men who rated on-duty and off-duty free time satisfaction differently, rated the off-duty free time more satisfying than the free time when on-duty in the firehouse.

TABLE VII

FIREHOUSE CONVERSATION SATISFACTION

Degree of Satisfaction	Number of Firemen	Per cent of 126 Firemen In Sample	Per cent of 121 Firemen who Conversed
Very Much	60	47.6	49.6
Somewhat	34	27.0	28.1
Little or None	27	21.4	22.3
No Conversation	5	4.0	
Total	126	100.0	100.0

TABLE VIII

FREE TIME SATISFACTION OF FIREMEN
IN FIREHOUSE AND ON OFF-DUTY DAYS

Degree of Satisfaction	Free Time			
	Firehouse		Off-Duty	
	Number of Firemen	Per cent of 126 Firemen	Number of Firemen	Per cent of 126 Firemen
Very Much	30	23.8	71	56.3
Somewhat	64	50.8	49	38.9
Little or none	32	25.4	6	4.8
Total	126	100.0	126	100.0

TABLE IX

**ESTIMATED SATISFACTION OF OTHER FIREMEN
WITH FIREHOUSE FREE TIME**

Degree of Satisfaction	Number of Firemen	Per cent of Firemen
Very Much	32	25.4
Somewhat	72	57.1
Little or None	22	17.5
Total	126	100.0

TABLE X

**WHICH FIREMAN BELIEVES DERIVES MORE SATISFACTION
FROM FIREHOUSE FREE TIME**

More Satisfied	Number of Firemen	Per cent of 126 Firemen
Himself	19	14.9
Other Firemen	31	24.7
No Difference	76	60.4
Total	126	100.0

TABLE XI

SATISFACTION WHEN ON-DUTY AND OFF-DUTY

Greater Satisfaction	Number of Firemen	Per cent of 126 Firemen
On-Duty Free Time	7	5.6
Off-Duty Free Time	61	48.4
No Difference	58	46.0
Total	126	100.0

Attitudes on Free Time Usage. Culture is the result of social experience, and every element in culture, including leisure time and its uses, is also greatly influenced by social experience. Leisure time usages, just as culture, result from the great variety of tools that have been developed to satisfy men's needs, from institutional structures and other control techniques, from philosophical explanations of life and the world, and from that important complex of attitudes and sentiments found in every individual and in every social group. The behavior of the firemen in the firehouses is greatly determined by the prevailing attitudes of the men, both as individuals and as groups. It is this area of attitudes which is considered in the following section.

In drawing up the interview schedule, it was thought the following information would be an indication of the attitudes of the firemen on leisure time and leisure time usages: their awareness of leisure time being available; the reasons for the satisfaction or dissatisfaction they feel with their free time and free time uses; their desires for using leisure time; and their awareness of leisure time and usages leading to personal advancement or problems.

Preparatory to the study, it was determined that the average fireman on the average day would have approximately nine hours in the firehouse which he could call leisure or free time. In this time he could choose more or less what he would do, subject, of course, to the various necessary restrictions.

Fifty-eight men (46 per cent) estimated the amounts of leisure time they had when on duty in the firehouse from eight to eleven hours. Apparently they were aware of the fact that it was free time. Five men (4 per cent), on the other hand, estimated their firehouse free time at three hours or less per twenty-four hour period. Four of these five men listed for their most time

consuming free time activities those activities which we called passive and semi-passive. Two of these five men had rated television as the most time-consuming activity. Four other men (3 per cent) estimated their daily free time in the firehouse at over fifteen hours. This is difficult to understand if you allow them eight hours for sleep, some time for meals, and any time at all for housework, drills, and fire runs. These four men all had free time activities in the active category which they rated either the greatest or second greatest time-consumer. This is difficult to explain.

It would seem that those men who are aware of more free time would be those who do little with this time. Those who are active might be expected to be conscious of less free time. The statistics indicated just the opposite. Perhaps it is because those who are more conscious of free time take extra steps to

TABLE XII

ESTIMATED HOURS OF FREE TIME IN FIREHOUSE

Numbers of Hours	All Firemen	
	Number of Firemen	Per cent of 126 Firemen
0 - 3	5	4.0
4 - 7	39	31.0
8 - 11	50	46.0
12 - 15	20	15.8
Over 15	4	3.2
Total	126	100.0

make use of that time. At any rate, while forty-six per cent of the men estimated the amount of free time in the firehouse at eight to eleven hours, forty-four men (35 per cent) estimated their firehouse free time at less than eight

hours, which could certainly be possible, and twenty-four men (19 per cent) estimated the free time at more than eleven hours.

A surprising number of men stated that the reason they had for the degrees of satisfaction they felt with free time usage and with efforts at concentrated study of fire-fighting techniques was merely that it 'helped pass the time.' Twenty-seven men (35 per cent of the seventy-seven men who did claim to do some concentrated study at some times) stated that the reason they studied was to pass the time. Sixty-three men (50 per cent) stated that promotional possibilities had some influence on the fact that they studied. Of the forty-nine

TABLE XIII

REASONS FOR STUDYING OR NOT IN FIREHOUSE

Reason	Responses of 77 ^a Men who Studied ^a			Responses of 49 Men who did not Study ^a		
	Number	(Total) Per cent	(Of 77) Per cent	Number	(Total) Per cent	(Of 49) Per cent
For Promotions	63	49.9	81.8			
To Pass Time	27	21.4	35.0			
Ill-adapted, etc.				34	27.0	69.4
"Who you know"				19	14.9	38.8

^aSome of the men listed more than one reason for studying or for not studying. Thus the discrepancy between the numbers reporting reasons and the total.

men who made no claim to having studied fire fighting, etc., while on duty in the firehouse, thirty-four (69 per cent of those who did not study) said the reason was because they could not 'settle down,' concentrate, or some similar idea. Nineteen men (39 per cent of those who did not study) said their reason for not studying was "It's not what you know but who you know" that counts in

getting promotions. A few men mentioned that they studied fire-fighting techniques in order to be able to do a better job, but this was only a secondary reason for them.

When discussing the reasons for the degree of satisfaction they felt in conversations and 'bull sessions' twenty-nine men (24 per cent of the 121 who did engage in conversation in the firehouse) gave as their main reason that it helped pass the time. Thirty-five men (29 per cent of those who conversed) said

TABLE XIV

REASONS FOR FIREHOUSE CONVERSATION SATISFACTION

Reason	Responses of 117 men who Derived Satisfaction from Conversation ^a		
	Number of Firemen	Per Cent of 126 Firemen	Per Cent of 117 Firemen
Interest in Subjects	35	27.7	29.8
Passes the Time	29	23.0	24.7
Learn from Discussion	23	18.2	19.6
Enjoy Talking	19	14.9	16.2
No Reason	11	8.7	9.7
Total	117	92.5	100.0

^aOne hundred twenty-six men were interviewed; five men took no part in conversation; four men got no satisfaction from conversation. Thus 117 men reported on reasons.

they felt satisfaction because they had interest in the subjects being discussed. Twenty-three men (19 per cent of those who conversed) said their reason was that there is always 'something to learn' from discussions with others. Nineteen men (16 per cent of those who conversed) said they felt satisfaction simply because they enjoyed 'talking.'

The attitudes on leisure time and leisure usage reflected by these various statements indicate that the men are aware of the free time they have and that they find it rather difficult to pass the time. On the other hand they feel little drive or motivation to employ the time more profitably. Others feel 'better' when they enjoy what they are doing, when they have some special interest in what they are doing, or when they feel that somehow they are profiting from the experience.

In discussing satisfaction with free time and free time uses or the dissatisfaction on off-duty days away from the firehouse, fifty-six of the firemen could explain why they felt satisfied or dissatisfied. The other seventy men could offer no reason. Twenty-eight men (22 per cent of all firemen interviewed)

TABLE IV

REASONS FOR FREE TIME SATISFACTION WHEN OFF DUTY

Reason	Number of Firemen	Per Cent of 126 Firemen
Home with Family	28	22.2
Could 'Better' Self	21	16.6
Other	7	5.6
None	70	55.6
Total	126	100.0

said the fact that they were with their families or could work on their homes was the reason for their feelings of satisfaction. Twenty-one men (17 per cent) said they were dissatisfied with their leisure time and usage on off-duty days because they realized they could be bettering themselves and were not. Specifics mentioned were spending too much time in taverns, not improving their own

homes, and not working at second jobs and bringing in more money. Seven men (6 per cent) mentioned various other isolated reasons.

The reasons the firemen had for their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with free time when off duty indicated again that, while aware of the availability of free time and the possible uses to which it could profitably be put, and while aware of the personal advancement or disadvantage to which it can lead, they felt little drive to initiate certain types of leisure activity on their own.

The various ways the men said they would like to use their free time also indicated their verbal attitudes toward leisure time and leisure usage. For example, approximately twenty per cent of the men (that is, twenty-four men --19 per cent--when speaking of firehouse free time, and twenty-five men--20 per cent--when speaking of free time off duty) said they would like to engage in more physical activity. This ranged from sports and games to hard work and labor, or was stated as simply 'some physical activity' in general without any specifications. Twenty-one men (17 per cent) said they would like to have some kind of a hobby shop in the firehouse; the most frequently mentioned hobby was woodcraft. Thirty men (24 per cent) said they would like to have some hobby at home (again woodcraft was the most-mentioned), own or work on their own homes, or simply have more time at home with their families. Seventeen men (13 per cent) would like to see more organized drilling or directed study in the firehouse during free time. Only four men (3 per cent) mentioned anything along strictly intellectual lines they would like to engage in when off duty and away from the firehouse. Discussions with these men indicated they would like anything from more serious reading to actually going to school again. Four men

TABLE XVI
FIREHOUSE FREE TIME DESIRES

Leisure Activities Desired	When on Duty			When Off Duty		
	Number ^a of Firemen	Per Cent of 126 Firemen	Per Cent of 58 Respondents	Number ^a of Firemen	Per Cent of 126 Firemen	Per Cent of 89 Respondents
With some Desire	58	46.0		89	70.6	
Physical Activity	24	19.0	41.4	25	19.8	28.1
Intellectual Activity	0	0.0	0.0	4	3.2	4.5
Study and Drills	17	13.4	29.3	0	0.0	0.0
Hobbies	21	16.6	36.2	0	0.0	0.0
Hobby and at Home ^b	0	0.0	0.0	30	23.8	33.6
Work for Profit	4	3.2	6.9	0	0.0	0.0
Travel and Driving	0	0.0	0.0	14	11.1	15.7
Spectator Sports and loafing	0	0.0	0.0	24	19.0	26.9
Only These				11	8.7	12.4
Plus Others				13	10.3	14.6
No Desires	68	54.0		37	29.4	
Total	126	100.0		126	100.0	

^aSome men listed more than one desire; thus the discrepancy between total number of men in sample and total number of desires.

^bIn speaking of desired hobbies when off duty, many men confused hobbies with being with their families. Thus both were grouped together.

(3 per cent) mentioned specifically that they would like to have projects or odd jobs they could work on in the firehouse which would profit them financially. Fourteen men (11 per cent) indicated that one of their primary free time desires for off-duty days was either travel to various points of interest, driving around or simply 'being on the move' somewhere in the car.

It is significant that sixty-eight men (54 per cent) had no specific desires for the use of their firehouse free time while only thirty-seven men (29

per cent) had no desires for the use of their free time when off duty and away from the firehouse. This might be either because making other use of firehouse free time would be more difficult and thus not considered by the men, or because more men were able to make better use of their free time when not on duty and therefore were better satisfied. However, thirteen men (10 per cent of the sample; 15 per cent of those men who did have some desires for off-duty free time) said they would like to do more loafing or watch some spectator sports along with some other desires; eleven men (9 per cent of the sample; 12 per cent of those men who had off-duty free time desires) desired only to loaf more or to watch more spectator sports either on location or on television, or both.

Possibly another indication of the firemen's awareness and appreciation of leisure time and the possibilities for advancement or personal problems it can lead to, while still allowing acceptance of situations and opportunities which present themselves without initiative or direction, is the number of firemen who could not answer why they were not doing what they said they would like to be doing with their free time, or who gave certain interesting answers to this question.

Thirty-six of the men who listed something specific for free time on off-duty days (40 per cent of these men with specific desires) could state no reason for not doing it. Nineteen men who had some specific desire for off-duty free time (21 per cent of these men with specific desires) claimed financial considerations were the reason for not doing what they would like to be doing. Seventeen of these men (19 per cent of these men with specific desires) simply stated that there was not enough time. This statement, considered in relation to the fact that the discussion was limited to free time, makes one wonder if

TABLE XVII

REASONS FOR UNFULFILLED DESIRES FOR LEISURE USAGE

Reason	When on Duty			When off Duty		
	Number ^a of Firemen	Per Cent of 126 Firemen	Per Cent of 58 Respondents	Number ^a of Firemen	Per Cent of 126 Firemen	Per Cent of 89 Respondents
Social Ridicule	13	10.3	22.4	0	0.0	0.0
'Ill-adapted'	11	8.7	19.0	0	0.0	0.0
Impractical	27	21.4	46.5	5	4.0	5.6
Against 'Rules	5	4.0	8.6	0	0.0	0.0
Financial	0	0.0	0.0	19	14.9	21.3
No Time	0	0.0	0.0	17	13.4	19.1
Age	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.8	1.1
No Reason	6	4.8	10.4	50	39.7	56.1
for: Loafing						
and Spectator Sports				14	11.1	15.7
for: Other Desires				36	28.5	40.4

^aSome men listed more than one reason; thus the discrepancy between total number of men reporting and numbers of reasons given.

perhaps this answer were not merely an excuse which could be easily and quickly offered. In addition, fourteen of the twenty-four men who said they would like to do more loafing or watch more spectator sports (11 per cent of the 126 firemen in the sample; 16 per cent of the 89 firemen who had some off-duty free time desires; and 58 per cent of the twenty-four men who wanted more off-duty loafing and spectator sports) could not offer any reason for not doing so.

Twenty-seven of the men who said that they would like to do something specific with their free time while on duty in the firehouse (47 per cent of these men) said the reason they did not do it was because it was impractical within the particular restrictions of the fire department and fire department work. Thirteen others said the reason was that they were subject to the ridicule of

other firemen if they planned something or worked regularly on it. Some of these men related cases in which they had once attempted certain projects, but gave them up because of the ridicule. This, of course, could be a social factor that plays a much more important role in the decisions of the men relative to free time and free time usage than was evident in the interviews.

Most of the men who mentioned this point did so only after much discussion. Others would bring up the point and then add that there were also other reasons why they did not do what they said they would like to be doing. It seemed as though the men hesitated in admitting that they were led by the influence of the social group in firehouse free activity. Yet, while it is certainly true that the other reasons mentioned played a part in determining free time behavior, for example lack of initiative and planning, the importance of the social group in which they found themselves using this free time could not be avoided.

Eleven other men stated merely that they lacked enough ambition and initiative to use their free time the way they would like to or thought it should be used, or that in some other way they were ill-adapted to such use. Only five men claimed that the reason they did not do what they would like to be doing with their firehouse free time was that it was against fire department regulations.

Forty-three men (34 per cent of the 126 interviewed) had nothing they would recommend for firehouse free time usage. This question was asked as a hypothetical situation in which the man being interviewed had complete control and did not have to worry about public opinion, cost, regulations, and other conditioning or restricting factors. Sixty-six per cent of the firemen interviewed did think something could or should be done and had specific recommendation to make.

TABLE XVIII

FREE TIME RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FIREHOUSE

	Number of Firemen ^a	Per Cent of 126 Firemen	Per Cent of 83 Respondents
Recommendations	83	65.9	
Any Physical Activity	35	27.7	42.2
Hobbies	34	27.0	41.0
Study and Drills	19	14.9	22.9
Anything to 'Keep Busy'	18	14.1	21.7
No Recommendations	43	34.1	
Total	126	100.0	

^aMany men suggested more than one type of free time activity they would like to see in firehouses.

Thirty-five men (28 per cent of the sample; 42 per cent of those making recommendations) thought that any kind of physical activity should be encouraged in the firehouse, from sports and hard work to calisthenics. Hobbies and hobby shops in the firehouse were recommended by thirty-four men (27 per cent of the sample; 41 per cent of the 83 men with recommendations). Nineteen men (15 per cent) believed more free time should be spent by the firemen in study of the fire department and fire-fighting techniques and in drills. Most frequently mentioned type of study was directed study courses, aimed specifically at promotional examinations.

A few men mentioned the possibility of doing charitable work for nearby institutions, though many men were critical of existing firehouse and fire department programs and activities which took the men away from the firehouse during their time on duty. Eighteen men (14 per cent of the sample; 22 per cent of the 83 with recommendations) said that they, if they were in charge in the

hypothetical situation, would find something to keep the men busy, because that is what they need, but at the time of the interviews they had no idea what they would do.

Again these data point to men who are aware of the free time with its possible advantages and disadvantages, but men whose attitudes reflect a passive acceptance of the situation and a corresponding lack of initiative and ambition and determination to do something about it.

Their awareness of the possible advantages of leisure usage and the problems which can develop from improper use of it were also indicated in discussions of two questions about actual cases. The men were asked whether they thought leisure usage had ever led to a problem for themselves, for their families, or for some other fireman whom they personally know. If they said they did think that leisure had led to problems, they were asked what kind of problems. Six men (5 per cent) refused to answer either question, and there is good reason to believe many who denied they knew of leisure usage ever leading to a problem actually were familiar with some such cases. The reason for this observation is the large number of men who would 'hedge' about the question, avoid it, find ways of changing the subject, and then finally answer an unhesitating "No!". Others would answer that they knew of no cases, and then add that they did not want to criticize others or talk about the affairs of others. Other men answered that they did know of specific cases of leisure usage leading to problems, but they did not want to discuss the problems specifically. Forty-eight men (38 per cent) said they did not think leisure usage had ever led to problems for themselves, their families, or for other firemen and their families. Forty-nine men (39 per cent) said that they did know men personally

whose leisure usage led to problems for themselves and their families. Nine men (7 per cent) said that their own use of leisure time had led to problems for

TABLE XIX

AWARENESS OF LEISURE AND PROBLEMS

Person for Whom Leisure Produced a Problem	Number of Firemen	Per Cent of 126 Firemen
Self	9	7.1
Others	49	38.9
Self and Others	14	11.1
None	48	38.1
Refusals	6	4.8
Total	126	100.0

themselves or their families. Fourteen men (11 per cent claimed that leisure usage had caused problems for both themselves and their families and for other firemen they personally knew.

The problem mentioned most frequently was drink and alcohol. Forty-four men (35 per cent) listed this as a problem caused by improper leisure usage. Twelve men (10 per cent of the 126 interviewed) said that gambling was a problem resulting from improper leisure usage. Twenty-one men (17 per cent) explained that the problem caused was simply too much 'loafing.' Usually this was expressed in phrases such as: "Does absolutely nothing," "Just loaf," "Because a no-good," "A bum," "a loafer," etc. Twenty-eight men (22 per cent) mentioned problems that involved women or other isolated specifics.

These were the attitudes on leisure time and leisure usage registered by the men. They were aware of advantages to which leisure could frequently enough

TABLE XI
PROBLEMS ATTRIBUTED TO IMPROPER LEISURE USAGE

	Frequency of Problems Mentioned by Seventy-two Men who Asserted Leisure Usage Had Led to Problems		
	Number of Firemen	Per Cent of 126 Firemen	Per Cent of 72 Respondents
Drink and Alcohol	44	34.9	61.1
Gambling	12	9.5	16.6
'Loafing'	21	16.6	29.2
Miscellaneous	28	22.2	38.8
Would Not State Problem	10	7.9	13.9

be put, and very often of disadvantages and problems which could develop from improper and imprudent use of leisure time. They had some desire to use their leisure time profitably. But they seemed to lack the initiative, ambition, and direction for putting some of these desires into effect.

Observable Relations: After considering the general picture of the men on the fire department, their personal characteristics, leisure usage, satisfaction derived from the usage, attitudes toward it and so forth, we shall now proceed to certain observable relationships between their personal and social situations and their leisure usage, satisfaction and attitudes. Variations and relationships were found in the areas of size of firehouses, relative activity of firehouses and companies and combinations of these, the age of the men, their education, their time on the fire department, marital status and number of children, and differences between their on-duty and off-duty free time activities.

In making comparisons between the above and leisure usages, the one hundred and twenty-six interviews were ranked in order within each of the eight

categories to be compared. For example, when seeking relationships which might be due to the relative working times for the various fire companies, the interviews were ranked in order from those obtained from men on the least active company to interviews obtained from those on the busiest company. The same procedure was followed for the other categories: houses with the most and fewest men assigned, ages of the men, marital status, etc. Then either twenty-five or fifty interviews from one extreme were compared to twenty-five or fifty interviews from the other extreme.²⁷ As a result, a buffer group of twenty-six men existed between the groups being compared.

When comparing the free time usage of men from the more active companies with the usage of men from the less active companies, little difference was found in the types of activity they rated as most time-consuming. There was a

TABLE XXI A
COMPARISON OF FREE TIME USAGE BETWEEN
MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE
COMPANIES

Greatest Time Consumer	Activity of Companies			
	Fifty Men on Least Active Companies		Fifty Men On Most Active Companies	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Active	9	18	6	12
Semiactive	2	4	2	4
Semipassive	26	52	23	46
Passive	13	26	19	38
Total	50	100	50	100

²⁷ When only two categories were to be compared, fifty interviews were compared with fifty; when four categories were to be compared, twenty-five interviews were used in each category.

TABLE XXI B

COMPARISON OF FREE TIME USAGE BETWEEN
MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE
COMPANIES

Second Greatest Time Consumer	Activity of Companies			
	Fifty Men on Least Active Companies		Fifty Men on Most Active Companies	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Active	4	8	11	22
Semiactive	11	22	10	20
Semipassive	17	34	12	24
Passive	18	36	14	28
Total	50	100	47 ^a	94 ^a

^aNot all men listed free time uses in more than one category; thus the discrepancy between respondents and total uses.

slight tendency for the men from busy companies to rate passive free time uses as most time-consuming, and for men from slower companies to rate active uses as most time-consuming. However, more men from busy companies rated active free time uses as the second greatest time-consumers.

Five of the one hundred and twenty-six men interviewed said they took no part in conversations; three of these were on the slowest companies, and two were on the busiest. There was a definite tendency for men on less active companies to speak more of current events and general topics, while men on more active companies seemed more to discuss women and family life.

TABLE XXII

COMPARISON OF CONVERSATION TOPICS BETWEEN
MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE
COMPANIES

Conversation Topics	Activity of Companies			
	Fifty Men on Least Active Companies		Fifty Men on Most Active Companies	
	Number ^a	Per Cent	Number ^a	Per Cent
General Subjects	25	50	15	30
Women, Girls, etc.	6	12	16	32
Family Life	13	26	18	36
Other	8	16	3	6
No Conversations	3	6	2	4

^aSome men listed more than one conversation topic; thus the discrepancy between total number of subjects listed and total number of men.

Fifty-six per cent of the men on busier companies stated that they did study fire-fighting techniques, etc., at some times at least, while seventy-six

TABLE XXIII

COMPARISON OF STUDY OF FIREFIGHTING TECHNIQUES BETWEEN
MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE
COMPANIES

Regular Concentrated Study of Fire-fighting Techniques	Activity of Companies			
	Fifty Men on Least Active Companies		Fifty Men on Most Active Companies	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Do Study	38	76	28	56
Do Not Study	12	24	22	44
Total	50	100	50	100

per cent of the men on the slower companies claimed that they studied. This difference of twenty per cent in favor of more study on the less active companies seems in accord with remarks of many firemen about learning from experience.

As regards the degree of satisfaction firemen derived from their free time and free time usage in the firehouse, much more variation was observable. While

TABLE XXIV

COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE FREE TIME SATISFACTION BETWEEN
MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES

Degree of Satisfaction	Activity of Companies			
	Fifty Men on Least Active Companies		Fifty Men on Most Active Companies	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Very Much	6	12	17	34
Somewhat	28	56	23	46
Little or None	16	32	10	20
Total	50	100	50	100

fifty-four per cent of the firemen on the slower companies, compared with only thirty-eight per cent of the men on busier companies, rated their satisfaction with firehouse conversations as very much, the men on the busier companies seemed much more satisfied with their general firehouse free time usage than did the men on the slower companies. Thirty-four per cent of the busier men rated their firehousefree time satisfaction as very much, while only twelve per cent of the slower men felt as much satisfaction.

TABLE XXV

**COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE CONVERSATION SATISFACTION BETWEEN
MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES**

Degree of Satisfaction	Activity of Companies			
	Fifty Men on Least Active Companies		Fifty Men on Most Active Companies	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Very Much	27	54	19	38
Somewhat	13	26	14	28
Little or None	7	14	15	30
No Conversation	3	6	2	4
Total	50	100	50	100

The same was true for the satisfaction these men thought other firemen derived from their firehouse free time uses. Thirty-six per cent of the more

TABLE XXVI

**COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED SATISFACTION OF OTHERS BETWEEN
MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES**

Satisfaction of Other Firemen	Activity of Companies			
	Fifty Men on Least Active Companies		Fifty Men on Most Active Companies	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Very Much	6	12	18	36
Somewhat	33	66	26	52
Little or None	11	22	6	12
Total	50	100	50	100

active men, and twelve per cent of the less active men, thought other firemen were very much satisfied with their free time uses in the firehouse. However, in the general data obtained in the one hundred and twenty-six interviews it was found that forty-eight per cent of all firemen in the sample claimed more satisfaction from free time when off duty than from free time in the firehouse. When comparing busy and slow companies it was found that fifty-eight per cent of the men on slow companies, and only forty per cent of the men on busy companies, claimed off-duty free time satisfaction was more than when on duty in the firehouse.

TABLE XXVII

COMPARISON OF SATISFACTION WHEN ON DUTY AND OFF DUTY BETWEEN
MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES

	Activity of Companies			
	Fifty Men on Least Active Companies		Fifty Men on Most Active Companies	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
On-Duty Free Time	1	2	3	6
Off-Duty Free Time	29	48	20	40
No Difference	20	40	27	54
Total	50	100	50	100

This seems to indicate that there is more satisfaction among the firemen who are assigned to busier companies than there is among those firemen assigned to slower companies which do less fire work. Because the types of free time activities were much the same for both the slower and busier groups of men, it seems even more clear that there is some correlation between the satisfaction

felt with free time usage and the relative working times for the companies.

In some cases this might be explained by the frequent interruptions of life in the firehouse by alarms to be answered, especially in larger houses where different companies respond to different alarms. However, since the average difference (between the slowest and busiest companies) in time worked at fires would be less than two hours per working day on six- and seven-men companies, too much meaning must not be given to a direct correlation of free time satisfaction and actual hours worked at fires.²⁸ Perhaps the number of alarms and consequently the number of interruptions in the daily order might be more significant.

In discussing things firemen would like to do with their firehouse free time and things they would like to recommend for the firehouse, some interesting variations were found. Sixty per cent of the busier firemen, compared to forty-two per cent of the slower firemen, stated there was no specific activity they had considered or would like to make use of in their firehouse free time. This difference is understandable when considered in relation to the degrees of satisfaction each group registered with their free time usage.

However, when asked if they would have anything to recommend for firehouse free time in the hypothetical situation that they personally were in charge, a corresponding forty per cent of the less active men said they had nothing to recommend. Only twenty-four per cent of the busier men (compared to sixty per

²⁸ The slowest company in the six- or seven-men category worked only forty hours in the year's time; the busiest company worked five hundred and fifteen hours. This difference of 475 hours spread over 365 days averages out to less than two hours per day.

cent when discussing firehouse free time desires) had nothing to recommend.

TABLE XXVIII

COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE FREE TIME DESIRES BETWEEN
MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES

Leisure Activities Desired	Activity of Companies			
	Fifty Men on Least Active Companies		Fifty Men on Most Active Companies	
	Number ^a	Per Cent	Number ^a	Per Cent
Physical Activity	9	18	11	22
Hobbies	12	24	3	6
Study and Drills	9	18	8	16
Projects for Profit	5	10	0	0
Nothing	21	42	30	60

^aSome men had more than one desire; thus the discrepancy between total number of desires and total number of men.

TABLE XXIX

COMPARISON OF FREE TIME RECOMMENDATIONS BETWEEN
MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES

Recommendations	Activity of Companies			
	Fifty Men on Least Active Companies		Fifty Men on Most Active Companies	
	Number ^a	Per Cent	Number ^a	Per Cent
Physical Activity	14	28	16	32
Hobbies	16	32	13	26
Study and Drills	7	14	8	16
Keep Busy	6	12	8	16
Nothing	20	40	12	24

^aSome men had more than one recommendation; thus the discrepancy between number of men and number of recommendations.

It would seem the slower men would give more thought to ways of using free time and have more to say about desired ways of using this free time in the firehouse. Yet more of the busier men had recommendations to make on free time usage in the firehouse. As far as could be determined, there is no selectivity process in which the better--more alert--men are sent to busier houses. However, men do make requests for transfers to different houses, and this might be significant.

While most of the suggested free time activities were well and equally distributed between the busier and slower groups of men, a slight majority of busier men (22 per cent of the busier and 18 per cent of the slower men) would have liked more physical activity in the firehouse. Thirty-four per cent of the slower men, compared to six per cent of the busier men, would have liked more free time activity in the line of hobbies, work projects, and projects for profit.

Corresponding to this, twenty-four per cent of the slower firemen, and eight per cent of the busier firemen, said their usage of free time, either in the firehouse or on off-duty days, had at some time led to problems for themselves or for their families. This considered in relation to their satisfaction, desires and recommendations throws more light on the subject of lack of planning for leisure time and lack of personal drive. The busier men were more satisfied than the slower with their free time and the busier men were less conscious of personal problems related to leisure usage. On the other hand, the slower men claimed fewer desires for leisure time, but made more actual recommendations for this usage. It would seem, then, that due to factors other than personal character or characteristics, men in the context of working on a

company with less actual fire work than busier companies, find the situation dissatisfying and to some extent 'hopeless.'

TABLE XXX

COMPARISON OF AWARENESS OF LEISURE AND PROBLEMS BETWEEN
MEN FROM MOST AND LEAST ACTIVE COMPANIES

Person for Whom Leisure Produced a Problem	Activity of Companies			
	Fifty Men on Least Active Companies		Fifty Men on Most Active Companies	
	Number ^a	Per Cent	Number ^a	Per Cent
Self	12	24	4	8
Others	24	48	25	50
None	22	44	21	42
Refusals	2	4	2	4

^aSome men related problems for self and other firemen.

Besides the importance of working time in relation to the uses, satisfaction and attitudes of the firemen relative to their free time, it was also thought that the number of men assigned to the firehouse might have some influence on these matters. Again the interviews for the fifty men assigned to the smallest firehouses were compared with those interviews for the fifty men assigned to the largest firehouses. The number of men in the smallest house was six; the number of men in the largest firehouse was twenty-three.

Little difference was discernible in the ways the men in these different categories actually used their free time. There seems to be a slight tendency for the men in the smaller houses to watch more television, listen to more radio and toward what was generally termed 'loafing' than for the men in the larger

houses. In the semipassive category of free time activity, which included conversation, reading, etc., there seemed a slight tendency for the men in larger houses to take more part than the men in smaller houses. The percentage differences between large and small houses as regards types of free time activities which were the most time-consuming were all less than twelve per cent.

The differences between the large and small houses as regards the second

TABLE XXXI A

COMPARISON OF FREE TIME USAGE BETWEEN
MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES

Greatest Time Consumer	Size of House			
	Fifty Men in Small Houses		Fifty Men in Large Houses	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Active	8	16	10	20
Semiactive	5	10	2	4
Semipassive	19	38	25	50
Passive	18	36	13	26
Total	50	100	50	100

TABLE XXXI B

COMPARISON OF FREE TIME USAGE BETWEEN
MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES

Second Greatest Time Consumer	Size of House			
	Fifty Men in Small Houses		Fifty Men in Large Houses	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Active	5	10	9	18
Semiactive	8	16	10	20
Semipassive	22	44	12	24
Passive	15	30	17	34
Total	50	100	48 ^a	96 ^a

^aNot all men listed more than one type of activity as a leisure use.

greatest time-consuming activities were all less than eight per cent with one exception. Forty-four per cent of the men in smaller houses rated reading and conversation as the second greatest time-consumer for themselves. In the larger houses only twenty-four per cent of the men rated reading and conversation as the second greatest time-consumer.

Sixty-six per cent of the men assigned to the larger houses claimed to study fire-fighting techniques, while fifty-four per cent of the men in smaller houses made the same claim.

TABLE XXXII

COMPARISON OF STUDY OF FIRE-FIGHTING TECHNIQUES BETWEEN
MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES

Regular Concentrated Study of Fire-fighting Techniques	Size of House			
	Fifty Men in Small Houses		Fifty Men in Large Houses	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Do Study	27	54	33	66
Do Not Study	23	46	17	34
Total	50	100	50	100

Conversation about the fire department and about general subjects was equally distributed between the larger and smaller houses. However, twenty-eight per cent of the men assigned to large houses, compared with twelve per cent of the men assigned to small houses, claimed that sports was one of the chief conversation topics. Sixty-two per cent of the men in small firehouses claimed that women, family, and family life was a chief conversation topic, while only forty-two per cent of the men in large firehouses made the same claim.

TABLE XXXIII
COMPARISON OF CONVERSATION TOPICS BETWEEN
MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES

Conversation Topics	Size of House			
	Fifty Men in Small Houses		Fifty Men in Large Houses	
	Number ^a	Per Cent	Number ^a	Per Cent
General Subjects	15	30	18	36
Women, Girls, etc.	14	28	10	20
Family Life	17	34	11	22
Sports	6	12	14	28
Other	3	6	2	4
No Conversations	1	2	3	6

^aSome men listed more than one conversation topic.

In summary, there was a slight tendency for the men in smaller firehouses to use their free time in completely passive uses while the men in larger houses seemed a bit more active. The men in larger houses were also a bit more interested in sports and active forms of life. These same men showed more interest in studying the fire department and fire-fighting techniques.

As regards satisfaction derived from firehouse conversation, a slight tendency existed for men in larger houses to rate their satisfaction as more than the men in smaller houses. Forty-eight per cent of the men in larger houses rated their conversation satisfaction as 'very much,' compared to forty-two per cent of the men in smaller firehouses. Thirty-two per cent of the men in smaller firehouses rated their conversation satisfaction as 'little or none,' compared to only eighteen per cent of the men in larger houses. Perhaps the

TABLE XXXIV

COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE CONVERSATION SATISFACTION BETWEEN
MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES

Degree of Satisfaction	Size of House			
	Fifty Men in Small Houses		Fifty Men in Large Houses	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Very Much	21	42	24	48
Somewhat	12	24	14	28
Little or None	16	32	9	18
No Conversation	1	2	3	6
Total	50	100	50	100

reason for this is merely that there is a larger selection of men to join conversation in the larger firehouses.

Along the same lines, the firemen in the larger houses seemed to derive more satisfaction from their general free time usage in the firehouses than did the men in smaller firehouses. Forty-eight per cent of the men in both the large and small firehouses rated their free time satisfaction as 'somewhat.' Thirty per cent of the men in the larger firehouses rated it as 'very much,' compared with twenty-two per cent of the men in the smaller houses. The percentage difference was exactly the same for those who rated their free time satisfaction as 'little or none,' except that men in smaller houses were in the majority.

Again, the majority of the firemen said they believed other firemen were 'somewhat' satisfied with their firehouse free time, and that slightly more of the other men were 'very much' satisfied than derived 'little or no

satisfaction' from their firehouse free time. These three categories of satisfaction estimated for other firemen, however, were distributed between the large and small houses with a difference of less than five per cent.

TABLE XXXV

COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE FREE TIME SATISFACTION BETWEEN
MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES

Degree of Satisfaction	Size of House			
	Fifty Men in Small Houses		Fifty Men in Large Houses	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Very Much	11	22	15	30
Somewhat	24	48	24	48
Little or None	15	30	11	22
Total	50	100	50	100

TABLE XXXVI

COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED SATISFACTION OF OTHERS BETWEEN
MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES

Satisfaction of Other Firemen	Size of House			
	Fifty Men in Small Houses		Fifty Men in Large Houses	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Very much	12	24	10	20
Somewhat	29	58	31	62
Little or None	9	18	9	18
Total	50	100	50	100

It was surprising to note that there was also a slight tendency for the men from smaller houses to say they thought they preferred their firehouse free time to their free time when off duty, and for the men from larger houses to prefer free time when off duty to their free time in the firehouse. Though only five men from the one hundred being compared preferred firehouse free time, four of these were assigned to small firehouses. While it would appear, therefore, that there is a slight tendency for the men in larger houses to derive more satisfaction from their free time and free time usage in the firehouse than men in small houses, consideration of all the data would indicate that their satisfaction as well as their free time usage is related to a combination of size of house and all the other factors being considered.

TABLE XXXVII

COMPARISON OF SATISFACTION WHEN ON DUTY AND OFF DUTY BETWEEN
MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES

Greater Satisfaction	Size of House			
	Fifty Men in Small Houses		Fifty Men in Large Houses	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
On Duty Free Time	4	8	1	2
Off Duty Free Time	22	44	24	48
No Difference	24	48	25	50
Total	50	100	50	100

In comparing the smaller and larger houses relative to the attitudes of the men toward leisure and leisure usage, it was also found that the larger houses were more content with the actual uses the men had for their firehouse free time. Sixty per cent of the men assigned to large firehouses said they

had no specific desires for using firehouse free time, while only forty-two per cent of the men in small firehouses stated they had no specific desires. Thirty-eight per cent of the men in large firehouses said they would have no free time recommendations to make in the hypothetical situation that they were in charge, while thirty per cent of the firemen in small firehouses had no recommendations. Why this difference should exist between the responses of the men to questions about desires and to questions about recommendations is not clear; however, in discussing both questions, the men assigned to smaller firehouses who tended to be less satisfied, had more desires and recommendations to make than did the men in larger firehouses. The chief difference in desires and recommendations between men in smaller and larger houses was that men in small houses seemed to prefer more physical activity be added to their free time usage than did the men in larger houses.

TABLE XXXVIII

COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE FREE TIME DESIRES BETWEEN
MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES

Leisure Activities Desired	Size of House			
	Fifty Men in Small Houses		Fifty Men in Large Houses	
	Number ^a	Per Cent	Number ^a	Per Cent
Physical Activity	12	24	8	16
Hobbies	9	18	4	8
Study and Drills	7	14	6	12
Projects for Profit	4	8	0	0
Nothing	21	42	33	66

^a Some men listed more than one desire; thus the discrepancy.

TABLE XXXIX

COMPARISON OF FREE TIME RECOMMENDATIONS BETWEEN
MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES

Recommendations	Size of House			
	Fifty Men in Small Houses		Fifty Men in Large Houses	
	Number ^a	Per Cent	Number ^a	Per Cent
Physical Activity	20	40	11	22
Hobbies	12	24	13	26
Study and Drills	6	12	8	16
Keep Busy	8	16	5	10
Nothing	15	30	19	38

^aSome men had more than one recommendation to make. Thus the discrepancy between total number of men and number of recommendations.

While it was true that fewer men in large houses thought conversation about family life was a time-consumer for themselves, thirty-two per cent of the men in larger houses said the reason they enjoyed their off-duty free time was because they were at home and with their families. This compares favorably with the fourteen per cent of firemen in smaller houses who gave the same reason for their off-duty free time satisfaction. On the other hand, twenty-two per cent of the men assigned to small houses thought they could be 'bettering' themselves more with their free time when off duty, compared to only six per cent of the men in larger houses who felt the same.

Along the same lines, twenty-eight per cent of the men in small houses said that they knew of leisure usage either when on duty or when off duty that led to problems they called 'being a bum,' that is usually drinking, gambling, or

simply 'loafing.' Only six per cent of the men in the larger firehouses said they knew of cases in which leisure usage led to these same problems.

TABLE XL

COMPARISON OF AWARENESS OF LEISURE AND PROBLEMS BETWEEN
MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES

Person for Whom Leisure Produced a Problem	Size of House			
	Fifty Men in Small Houses		Fifty Men in Large Houses	
	Number ^a	Per Cent	Number ^a	Per Cent
Self	15	30	6	12
Others	25	50	30	60
None	16	32	16	32
Refusals	4	8	2	4

^aSome men related problems for themselves and for other firemen.

Twenty-eight per cent of the firemen in small houses said they believed

TABLE XLI

COMPARISON OF WHOM FIREMAN BELIEVES DERIVES MORE SATISFACTION
FROM FIREHOUSE FREE TIME BETWEEN MEN FROM SMALLER AND LARGER HOUSES

More Satisfied	Size of House			
	Fifty Men in Small Houses		Fifty Men in Large Houses	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Himself	8	16	9	18
Other Firemen	14	28	8	16
No Difference	28	56	33	66
Total	50	100	50	100

other firemen were more satisfied with their free time usage than they themselves were; only sixteen per cent of the men in large houses thought this. Thirty-two per cent of the men in both the large and in the small firehouses said they knew of no problems which could be traced to leisure time usage either when on duty or when off duty; yet thirty per cent of the men assigned to small houses, compared with only twelve per cent of the men in large houses, said leisure time usage had definitely led to personal problems for themselves or for their families.

Again, while the uses of free time seemed to tend to be in the more passive categories for the men assigned to smaller houses, and while the men in these smaller houses seemed to register less satisfaction with their free time usage than did the men in large houses, the attitudes these men showed toward free time and free time usage also seemed to indicate that these men in smaller houses were less satisfied, that free time had caused them more problems, that they had more desires to use this free time, but also that they lacked the initiative and personal drive to put their desires into effect.

In addition to the variations which might be discernible between the large and small houses and between the busy and slow companies, combinations of these might also show their effects on free time behavior patterns of the firemen. The interviews were divided into five groups: the busiest large firehouses, the slowest large firehouses, the busiest small firehouses, and the slowest small firehouses, with the remaining interviews as a buffer group. This buffer group consisted of twenty-six interviews; each of the other four groups consisted of twenty-five interviews.

Leisure time uses and the amounts of leisure time given to each of the four categories of leisure activity were almost the same for each of the four groups being compared. The greatest variations were of less than thirteen per cent, with three exceptions. Twenty per cent more firemen in the busy large houses than in the slow large houses rated radio, television and loafing as the most time-consuming. Twenty-four per cent more firemen in the busy small houses than in the slow small houses rated active leisure uses as the second greatest time-consumer; just the reverse was true for reading and conversation. Other differences in types of free time activity engaged in in the firehouses were much less.

TABLE XLII A

COMPARISON OF FREE TIME USAGE BETWEEN MEN FROM
COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES

Greatest Time Consumer	Size and Activity of House							
	Busy Firehouses				Slow Firehouses			
	Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses	
	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
Active	4	16	2	8	4	16	5	20
Semiactive	1	4	1	4	1	4	1	4
Semipassive	12	48	11	44	13	52	13	52
Passive	8	32	11	44	7	28	6	24
Total	25	100	25	100	25	100	25	100

TABLE XLII B

COMPARISON OF FREE TIME USAGE BETWEEN MEN FROM
COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES

Second Greatest Time Consumer	Size and Activity of House							
	Busy Firehouses				Slow Firehouses			
	Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses	
	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
Active	6	24	5	20	0	0	4	16
Semiactive	4	16	6	24	5	20	6	24
Semipassive	5	20	7	28	11	44	6	24
Passive	8	32	6	24	9	36	9	36
Total	23 ^a	92 ^a	24 ^a	96 ^a	25	100	25	100

^a Not all men listed more than one type of activity as a leisure usage; thus the discrepancy between uses reported and total interviews.

In the matter of conversation during free time in the firehouses, there appeared some variations. Those five men who claimed they took no part in firehouse conversations were distributed over the four categories being compared; the slow-large houses had two of them, to one in each of the other three categories. The busy houses with a small number of men assigned to them seemed to engage in much more conversation about women and girls than did the other groups. The other groups of men seemed to have much more conversation about current events and general subjects.

TABLE XLIII

COMPARISON OF CONVERSATION TOPICS BETWEEN
MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES

Conversation Topics	Size and Activity of House							
	Busy Firehouses				Slow Firehouses			
	Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses	
	Num-ber ^a	Per Cent	Num-ber ^a	Per Cent	Num-ber ^a	Per Cent	Num-ber ^a	Per Cent
General Subjects	4	16	11	44	13	52	12	48
Women, Girls, etc.	11	44	5	20	4	16	2	8
Family Life	9	36	9	36	9	36	4	16
Sports	2	8	7	28	3	12	5	20
Fire Department	12	48	9	36	8	32	9	36
Other	3	12	2	8	5	20	4	16
No Conversation	1	4	1	4	1	4	2	8

^aSome men listed more than one conversation topic; thus the discrepancy between number of topics and number of interviews.

Fifty-six per cent of the men in the busy-small houses said that they never studied fire department regulations, fire-fighting techniques, evolutions, hydraulics, etc. The men who did not study in the other three groups of men ranged from only twenty to thirty-two per cent of the men. Sixty per cent of the firemen in slow-large firehouses claimed they gave concentrated effort to the study of fire fighting at some times, compared with fifty-four per cent of the men in slow-small houses, fifty-one per cent of the men in busy-large firehouses, and thirty-three per cent of the men in busy-small firehouses. While there is a difference between the study habits of the men in the busy firehouses

with few men assigned to them, who did less study, and the other groups, other variations in leisure time usage seem to be in line with the findings in relation to size of house and to relative working times.

TABLE XLIV

COMPARISON OF STUDY OF FIRE-FIGHTING TECHNIQUES BETWEEN
MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES

Regular Concentrated Study of Fire-fighting Techniques	Size and Activity of House							
	Busy Firehouses				Slow Firehouses			
	Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses	
	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
Do Study	11	44	17	68	18	72	20	80
Do Not Study	14	56	8	32	7	28	5	20
Total	25	100	25	100	25	100	25	100

As regards satisfaction derived from leisure time and from leisure usage in the firehouse, most variations indicated no more than the differences already found between the large and small houses and between the busy and slow companies. However, some findings serve well to emphasize the facts already learned.

The slow firehouses, either with many or a few men assigned to them, were more satisfied than the busy firehouses with their firehouse conversations. Perhaps the reason for this is that they simply engaged in more conversations. Forty per cent of the men in small busy houses said they got little or no satisfaction from firehouse conversations, while only twelve to twenty per cent of

TABLE XLV

**COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE CONVERSATION SATISFACTION BETWEEN
MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES**

Degree of Satisfaction	Size and Activity of House							
	Busy Firehouses				Slow Firehouses			
	Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses	
	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
Very Much	9	36	10	40	15	60	12	48
Somewhat	5	20	9	36	6	24	7	28
Little or None	10	40	5	20	3	12	4	16
No Conversations	1	4	1	4	1	4	2	8
Total	25	100	25	100	25	100	25	100

the men in the other categories rated their conversation satisfaction as low.

As regards general firehouse free time satisfaction, the only significant variation was in the groups of men who rated their satisfaction as 'very much.' Thirty-six per cent of the firemen in busy-small houses and thirty-two per cent of those in busy-large houses derived 'very much' satisfaction from their firehouse free time, compared with only twelve per cent of the firemen in either the slow-small or slow-large categories.

Greater variation was evident for the satisfaction ratings these firemen gave to other men in the fire department. Forty-four per cent of the men in small-busy houses thought other firemen were 'very much' satisfied with their firehouse free time. Only eight per cent of the firemen in small slow houses

sixteen per cent of the men in large slow houses, and twenty-eight per cent of the men in large busy houses rated the satisfaction of other firemen as 'very much.' This coincides with the findings when comparing men in small and large houses and on busy and slow companies, in which the men on busy companies and the men in small houses tended to rate the satisfaction of other firemen as more than those in large houses and on slow companies.

TABLE XLVI

COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE FREE TIME SATISFACTION BETWEEN
MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES

Degree of Satisfaction	Size and Activity of House							
	Busy Firehouses				Slow Firehouses			
	Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses	
	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
Very Much	9	36	8	32	3	12	3	12
Somewhat	11	44	12	48	14	56	14	56
Little or None	5	20	5	20	8	32	8	32
Total	25	100	25	100	25	100	25	100

TABLE XLVII

COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED SATISFACTION OF OTHERS BETWEEN
MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES

Satisfaction of Other Firemen	Size and Activity of House							
	Busy Firehouses				Slow Firehouses			
	Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses	
	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
Very Much	11	44	7	28	2	8	4	16
Somewhat	11	44	15	60	17	68	16	64
Little or None	3	12	3	12	6	24	5	20
Total	25	100	25	100	25	100	25	100

In the same general pattern, seventy-six per cent of the firemen in large

TABLE XLVIII

COMPARISON OF SATISFACTION WHEN ON DUTY AND OFF DUTY BETWEEN
MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES

Greater Satisfaction	Size and Activity of House							
	Busy Firehouses				Slow Firehouses			
	Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses	
	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
On Duty Free Time	3	12	0	0	0	0	1	4
Off Duty Free Time	8	32	12	48	10	40	19	76
No Difference	14	56	13	52	15	60	5	20
Total	25	100	25	100	25	100	25	100

slow houses rated their satisfaction derived from free time on off-duty days as more than that obtained from firehouse free time. Only thirty-two per cent of the firemen assigned to small-busy firehouses preferred their off-duty free time. Corresponding to this, twelve per cent of the firemen in small busy houses preferred their firehouse free time, while only four per cent of the men in large slow houses and none of the men in the other two categories preferred their firehouse free time to their free time when off duty.

From this information, we see that the trend which appeared in our other

TABLE XLIX

COMPARISON OF FIREHOUSE FREE TIME DESIRES BETWEEN
MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES

Leisure Activities Desired	Size and Activity of House							
	Busy Firehouses				Slow Firehouses			
	Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses	
	Num- ber ^a	Per Cent	Num- ber ^a	Per Cent	Num- ber ^a	Per Cent	Num- ber ^a	Per Cent
Physical Activity	8	32	3	12	3	12	6	24
Hobbies	2	8	1	4	5	20	7	28
Study and Drills	3	12	5	20	5	20	4	16
Projects for Profit	0	0	0	0	5	20	0	0
Nothing	14	56	16	64	8	32	13	52

^aSome men listed more than one desire; thus the discrepancy between total number of desires and total number of interviews in a category.

comparisons continues. There seems to be more satisfaction with free time among the men on busier companies and in larger houses. However, the men assigned to small houses which are busy seem to be the most satisfied of all; the men in

large firehouses which are busy register the second greatest amount of satisfaction with free time and free time usage.

Eighty-six per cent of the firemen in small busy firehouses had something to recommend in the hypothetical situation that they were in charge. Only sixty

TABLE I.

COMPARISON OF FREE TIME RECOMMENDATIONS BETWEEN
MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES

Recommendations	Size and Activity of House							
	Busy Firehouses				Slow Firehouses			
	Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses	
	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent
Physical Activity	11	44	5	20	8	32	6	24
Hobbies	4	20	8	32	8	32	8	32
Study and Drills	4	16	4	16	3	12	4	16
Keep Busy	5	20	3	12	2	8	4	16
Nothing	4	16	8	32	10	40	10	40

^aSome men had more than one recommendation to make. Thus the discrepancy between total number of interviews and total number of recommendations.

to sixty-eight per cent of the firemen in the other categories made recommendations. Forty-four per cent of the busy men in small firehouses recommended more physical activity as a leisure time usage in the firehouse, while only twenty to thirty-two per cent of the men in the other categories did the same. Twenty-eight per cent of the firemen in the large slow houses recommended hobbies in general or preferred a particular hobby for firehouse free time, while only

eight per cent of the men in small busy houses and four per cent of the men in large busy houses recommended hobbies.

When the firemen discussed the possibility of personal problems able to be traced to leisure time and leisure time usage, thirty-six per cent of the men

TABLE LI

COMPARISON OF AWARENESS OF LEISURE AND PROBLEMS BETWEEN
MEN FROM COMBINATIONS OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES

Person for Whom Leisure Produced a Problem	Size and Activity of House							
	Busy Firehouses				Slow Firehouses			
	Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses	
	Num- ber ^a	Per Cent	Num- ber ^a	Per Cent	Num- ber ^a	Per Cent	Num- ber ^a	Per Cent
Self	3	12	1	4	9	36	3	12
Others	12	48	13	52	12	48	12	48
None	10	40	11	44	10	40	12	48
Refusals	1	4	1	4	1	4	1	4

^aSome men related problems for both themselves and for other firemen; thus the discrepancy between total problems and total interviews.

in small slow houses said that leisure time usage had at some time led to personal problems for themselves or for their families. Only four per cent of the men in busy large houses and twelve per cent of the men in the other two categories said the same. The problems that this thirty-six per cent were more aware of were problems that concerned gambling and what these men termed 'loafing' and 'bumming.' Problems mentioned by the men in the other three categories included more that was related to drinking, women, etc.

TABLE III

COMPARISON OF WHOM FIREMAN BELIEVES DERIVES MORE SATISFACTION
FROM FIREHOUSE FREE TIME BETWEEN MEN FROM COMBINATIONS
OF LARGE AND SMALL, BUSY AND SLOW HOUSES

More Satisfied	Size and Activity of House							
	Busy Firehouses				Slow Firehouses			
	Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Small Firehouses		Twenty-five Men in Large Firehouses	
	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent
Himself	3	12	4	16	6	24	2	8
Other Firemen	8	32	6	24	6	24	6	24
No Difference	14	56	15	60	13	52	17	68
Total	25	100	25	100	25	100	25	100

As a result of this we can safely say that while most of the variation in free time behavior patterns for the different groups of firemen are more easily traceable to the relative working times of the various companies and to the sizes of the firehouse in terms of numbers of men assigned to them, there is also a tendency for the small busy houses to be more satisfied than any of the other groups while at the same time they seem to desire more free time activities. The small slow firehouses seem to offer the least amount of satisfaction for firehouse free time usage and the men assigned to them seem more aware of problems which develop from improper use of free time, while at the same time they lack the personal drive and initiative which are necessary to do something about the problems.

Relationship to Personal Data. Thus for the general picture of leisure time, leisure usages, attitudes toward leisure, and satisfaction derived from leisure for the various social groups within the fire department relative to working time and size of house have been considered. There remains to be seen what variations in free time behavior patterns can be traced to certain personal characteristics of the men. Where an equal number of interviewees could easily be placed in the groups determined on a basis of working time or size of house, with a maximum of only two or three men chosen at random from groups of three or four interviews to complete the group of twenty-five or fifty interviews, this could not be done when comparing free time usage, attitudes and satisfaction on the basis of personal characteristics. The men were not equally or proportionately distributed as regards age, fire department experience, education, marital status, etc. As a result, the extreme groups of men in the matter of age, education, etc. were compared, regardless of the number of men in each category, and obvious variations were noted.

A slight tendency existed for the older men to engage in the more passive firehouse free time uses. Their conversations concerned chiefly the fire department, women, and family life, while the younger men seemed to speak more of sports, current events, and general topics. Over fifty per cent of the older men claimed that they gave some concentrated effort to the study of fire-fighting techniques, etc., while forty per cent of the younger men made the same claim.

The younger men were more ready to rate their satisfaction with firehouse conversations as very much, while the older men chose a more moderate course or stated that they were dissatisfied with it. On the other hand, the younger men

tended more to rate their general satisfaction with firehouse free time as 'somewhat,' while the older men rated it in either of the two extreme categories, 'very much' or 'little or none.'

When discussing the satisfaction these firemen thought other firemen derived from their firehouse free time, the younger men tended to think others were more dissatisfied, while the older men were quicker to rate the satisfaction of others as 'very much' or 'somewhat.' Approximately the same per cent of younger and older firemen rated their satisfaction with free time when on duty and when off duty as the same, while the older men who rated it differently tended to prefer their free time in the firehouse.

Younger men tended to enjoy their firehouse conversations more because it helped pass the time, while the older men claimed they were interested in conversations more because of what they could learn from them. The same was true for the reasons they gave for studying or not studying fire-fighting techniques. Younger men tended to study more as a means of passing time, while the older men saw more the possibilities of promotion. The older men who did not study tended more to give reasons associated with difficulties in concentration, directed intellectual efforts, etc., than did the younger men.

There was also a tendency for the older men to have no recommendations or desires for firehouse free time, or to recommend some type of physical activity, while the younger men seemed to think more in terms of hobbies. The older men also tended to derive more satisfaction than the younger men from spending their off-duty free time at home and with their families.

Forty-four per cent of the older men thought other firemen were more satisfied with their firehouse free time than they themselves were, while only twelve

per cent of the younger men believed other firemen were more satisfied.

In general, it seemed as though the older men were occupied in more passive free time activities and had some desire to be more active, and that they derived less satisfaction from their free time than did the younger men and were more conscious of uses to which free time could be put.

Certain variations were evident when comparing those men with less than a year on the fire department with those who had more than fifteen years experience. Those with more time on the job definitely used more of their firehouse free time in reading and conversation than did the newer firemen. The new men took less part in 'bull sessions' in the firehouse than did the more experienced men. But the new firemen who did engage in conversations tended more to talk about families and family life than did the more experienced men, contrary to what was seen when comparing the younger and older men. There was also a definite tendency for the new firemen to study the fire department, fire-fighting techniques, etc., than did the more experienced men.

The firemen with more time on the job tended to be more moderate in the degrees of satisfaction they gave to free time for themselves and for other firemen. But the new firemen were quicker to rate other firemen as more satisfied than themselves with their firehouse free time, and the older men had a slight tendency to rate their own satisfaction more than the satisfaction of others.

The general picture of firehouse free time satisfaction is one of the new firemen looking more or less enthusiastically at his job, being satisfied with his free time, and considering other firemen well satisfied or more so than himself, while older men with more experience tend to view the situation and see moderate degrees of free time satisfaction. Men with less experience on the job

were quicker to recommend free time uses for the firehouse or to state desires for using firehouse free time than were the men with more experience on the job. Newer firemen also tended to think more in terms of study and drills while the men with more experience spoke more in terms of physical activity and hobbies.

A comparison of these firemen who finished only grammar school or who entered but did not finish high school, with those firemen who attempted college or some other type of formal education beyond a complete high school course showed some interesting variations. Those with the less education were more active in their firehouse free time while those who finished high school and attempted some education beyond high school definitely tended toward completely passive free time uses in the firehouse. While the conversation topics were equally distributed between the two groups, those who had attempted some education beyond high school tended to discuss sports more than did those men who never finished high school. Those who attempted some further education showed a slight tendency to study more fire-fighting techniques, etc. than did those who never finished high school.

There was a very definite tendency evident for the firemen who had attempted some education beyond high school to derive little or no satisfaction from their firehouse free time. These men also rated the satisfaction they thought other firemen get from firehouse free time as more and greater than their own, and there were more of them proportionately who preferred their off-duty free time to their free time in the firehouse.

The men who finished high school and attempted some education beyond that also spoke more of interest in conversation topics as their reasons for enjoying firehouse conversations and of proportional possibilities as a reason for studying

the fire department, fire fighting, etc.

These men who finished high school and attempted something beyond it also showed a tendency to recommend and state more desires for physical activity, study and drills, and hobbies for firehouse free time.

They tended more than the men who had never finished high school to explain their not doing what they had said they would like to be doing with on-duty and off-duty free time by lack of ambition, lack of initiative, lack of personal drive, and what some preferred to call simply being 'ill adapted' to it.

The more educated firemen were also much quicker to see the possibilities of leisure time and leisure time usage leading to problems, actual cases in which leisure usage had led to problems for themselves and for other firemen, to talk about this subject, and to speak of practically all the problems that had been mentioned in the course of all the interviews.

The greatest variations as regards leisure time, leisure usage, attitudes, satisfaction, etc., were between the extreme educational groups. The firemen with less education were more active in their free time, while the men with more education tended more toward passive free time usage. Those with less education seemed to reflect less on the amounts of free time they had, what they did with it, and to be more satisfied with their free time and usage. The men with more education seemed to do much more thinking about their free time and free time usage and derived much less satisfaction from their firehouse free time.

When comparing those men who were not married or who were married but did not have any children with those men who were married and who had dependent children living at home, there was a definite tendency for the married man with children to be more active in their firehouse free time. The men with more children

seemed to be less satisfied with firehouse free time and to think other firemen were less satisfied than did the unmarried men and those married men with no children. The married men with children also showed a definite tendency to prefer their off-duty free time to their free time while on duty in the firehouse.

The married men with children also tended more to have desires for firehouse and off-duty free time usage and to recommend firehouse activities, especially in the line of hobbies, while the unmarried men and married men with no children were more content. The married men with children also recommended more physical activity for the firehouse. Married men with children were more aware of problems that could come from leisure usage, both for themselves and for other firemen. In general unmarried men and married men with no children were more content and satisfied with their firehouse free time than were those married men with dependent children living at home.

When comparing the types of free time activities engaged in in the firehouse and when off duty, proportionately the same number of men who engaged in either active or passive free time uses in the firehouse spent most of their off-duty free time at home either working on their homes or property or being 'with the family,' the chief ways the firemen used off-duty free time. There was just a slight tendency for the firemen who used firehouse free time actively to use their off-duty free time more actively, and for the firemen who used firehouse free time more passively to use their off-duty free time more passively.

Of the thirty firemen who rated their firehouse free time satisfaction as very much, twenty-three gave their off-duty free time satisfaction the same rating and seven men rated it as less on off-duty days. Of the thirty-two firemen who rated their firehouse free time satisfaction as little or none, only four of

these gave the same rating to their free time satisfaction when off duty and away from the firehouse. Fifteen of the thirty firemen who rated their firehouse free time satisfaction as very much thought they were more satisfied than the average firemen; eighteen of the thirty-two firemen who rated their firehouse free time satisfaction as little or none thought other firemen were more satisfied than themselves with the way they used their free time. All of this seems to indicate that those firemen who considered themselves well satisfied with their firehouse free time believed they had adjusted better than the average firemen, while those who were less satisfied believed other firemen had adjusted better.

Preferences or desires for free time usage varied considerably between firehouse and off-duty free time. No more than twenty-five per cent of those men who suggested some type of free time usage for the firehouse thought of the same type of activity for their free time when off duty. This indicated again that the men were more than well aware of the different circumstances surrounding their home situations and the situation that found them in the firehouse for twenty-four hour periods.

This information correlated with the personal backgrounds and characteristics of the firemen shows that in addition to the free time behavior characteristics which can be traced to the social situations in which the firemen find themselves, personal characteristics also have a very important part to play.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Free time is leisure time and leisure activity is recreation. Included in the concept of recreation are all those diversions and activities which have their own appeal, from play, games, hobbies and avocations to simple relaxation, pastimes, and certain amusements.¹ Perhaps the meanings and connotations of these words in themselves are an integral part of the problem of dealing with leisure in the firehouse.

During the interviews the word 'leisure' and its connotations drew unfavorable reactions from the firemen. 'Free time' was a term more easily accepted, though it, too, drew comments on the amount of work actually done by firemen. The reactions that would have come to a question about 'forms of recreation' for firehouse free time are not impossible to imagine, yet this is essentially the situation in which firemen find themselves.

The stereotype fireman playing cards in a back room or sitting for endless hours on a hard wood chair, tilted back on the firehouse doorpost, is a stereotype the firemen are all too conscious of. As a result, leisure time and usage in the firehouse is frequently ignored.

Firemen and officials react to questions about satisfaction with firehouse

¹See Dictionary of Sociology, 251-252.

free time defensively, either denying there is free time or extravagantly portraying the supreme satisfaction of being on call and dedication to duty. In the interviews, however, it seemed that such is not actually the case.

Dissatisfaction with firehouse free time was evident, shown in the ratings the men gave to their own free time satisfaction, the satisfaction of others, their desires and recommendations, their concern about problems, and other such statements. Their awareness of the fact that free time usage can be a problem and that free time can be used advantageously indicates that solutions to the problem are not entirely out of the question.

The number of men assigned to a house and the relative busyness of the firehouses and fire companies seemed to have little effect, if any, on the actual ways the firemen used their firehouse free time. However, there seemed to be a definite relation between these factors of size of house and busyness of house and the amounts of satisfaction the firemen derived from their firehouse free time.

Men in large firehouses seemed to be more satisfied with their free time than men in small firehouses, and men in busy firehouses seemed much more satisfied in general than the men in relatively slow firehouses. However, the men in small firehouses that were busy derived the most satisfaction from firehouse free time of any of the groups compared.

Differences in free time usage and free time satisfaction were also evident between the more educated and less educated firemen. The men with less formal education seemed to engage in more active leisure usages and to be more satisfied with their firehouse free time. The men with more formal education seemed to engage in more passive free time usages, to be less satisfied with

their firehouse free time, and to actually reflect more on free time and its usages. These firemen with more formal education were the least hopeful of doing anything about the situation they described and many of them were explicit about root problems with leisure time that other firemen hinted at or discussed in general terms. These firemen frequently mentioned lack of personal drive, ambition and initiative as reasons more was not done with firehouse free time, in addition to the other factors such as rules, public opinion, impracticality, lack of facilities, etc. Perhaps there was more than merely surface significance to the statement of one fireman interviewed: "This is the perfect job for the guy who couldn't get an education."

While it seemed there was a definite relation between the satisfaction of the firemen with their firehouse free time and the relative busyness or fire activity of the companies and houses, it might prove valuable to further investigate their satisfaction in relation to a similar factor.

If the busier fire companies and houses had spent a considerably greater amount of time fighting fires than the slower ones, and thus considerably reduced the amounts of free time in the firehouses, the relation of this to free time satisfaction would be more certain. But the actual working times at fires, we have seen, differs only up to an hour per day between busy and slow companies on the average.

It would seem, therefore, that free time satisfaction of the men might be more related to the frequency of interruptions in the daily firehouse life patterns, i.e. the number of fire runs, than to the actual number of hours worked at fires. If any further study is done on the subject of free time and free time satisfaction in the firehouse, the number of runs per company might prove

a more valuable factor than the number of hours worked. Possibly there would also be some relation between the types of activity engaged in and the number of runs per house.

Some other areas of further study might be to investigate further the men who are more active or more satisfied with their free time to discover similar patterns, or to investigate further just those men who have been changed from one company to another and discover what factors were related to different degrees of satisfaction on the different companies. Perhaps, also, there are other factors to be discovered that would throw light on the satisfaction ratings of those men with more formal education. A grandiose plan would be to compare satisfaction ratings between the men in different city fire departments and see if there is any relation to official policies or leadership techniques.

In conclusion, then, it would seem that there is some relation between the numbers of men assigned to the various firehouses and especially the relative busyness of the firehouses and companies, and the satisfaction of the firemen with their firehouse free time and free time usages. No clear relation was observable between these factors and the ways of using firehouse free time.

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APPENDIX I

SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION TABLES

TABLE LIII

SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY NUMBER OF MEN IN FIREHOUSE
AND BY OPERATIONAL UNITS

Number of men per House	Units and Men Assigned			Interviews and Percentage	
	Operational Units	Number of Units	Number of Men	Number of Interviews	Per Cent of Men Assigned
6	Houses	42	252	24	9.5
	Pumpers	34	204	18	8.8
	Trucks	8	48	6	12.5
	Squads	0	0	0	0.0
7	Houses	9	63	5	7.9
	Pumpers	6	36	5	13.9
	Trucks	0	0	0	0.0
	Squads	0	0	0	0.0
8	Houses	27	216	18	8.3
	Pumpers	18	144	12	8.3
	Trucks	9	72	6	8.3
	Squads	0	0	0	0.0
9	Houses	2	18	1	5.6
	Pumpers	2	12	1	8.3
	Trucks	0	0	0	0.0
	Squads	0	0	0	0.0

TABLE LIII (Continued)

SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY NUMBER OF MEN IN FIREHOUSE
AND BY OPERATIONAL UNITS

Number of Men per House	Units and Men Assigned			Interviews and Percentage	
	Operational Units	Number of Units	Number of Men	Number of Interviews	Per Cent of Men Assigned
10	Houses	2	20	1	5.0
	Pumpers	2	12	1	8.3
	Trucks	0	0	0	0.0
	Squads	0	0	0	0.0
11	Houses	1	11	1	9.1
	Pumpers	1	6	1	16.6
	Trucks	0	0	0	0.0
	Squads	0	0	0	0.0
12	Houses	19	228	26	11.4
	Pumpers	19	114	12	10.5
	Trucks	19	114	14	12.3
	Squads	0	0	0	0.0
13	Houses	10	130	15	11.5
	Pumpers	10	60	7	11.6
	Trucks	1	6	2	33.3
	Squads	9	63	6	9.5
14	Houses	10	140	14	10.0
	Pumpers	10	60	8	13.4
	Trucks	9	54	6	11.1
	Squads	1	7	0	0.0
15	Houses	3	45	7	15.6
	Pumpers	3	18	4	22.2
	Trucks	2	12	3	25.0
	Squads	1	7	0	0.0
16	Houses	2	32	4	12.5
	Pumpers	2	12	3	25.0
	Trucks	2	12	1	8.3
	Squads	0	0	0	0.0

TABLE LIII (continued)

SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY NUMBER OF MEN IN FIREHOUSE
AND BY OPERATIONAL UNITS

Number of men per house	Units and Men Assigned			Interviews and Percentage	
	Operational Units	Number of Units	Number of Men	Number of Interviews	Per Cent of Men Assigned
17	Houses	1	17	2	11.8
	Pumpers	1	6	0	0.0
	Trucks	1	6	2	33.3
	Squads	0	0	0	0.0
18	Houses	1	18	0	0.0
	Pumpers	1	6	0	0.0
	Trucks	2	12	0	0.0
	Squads	0	0	0	0.0
20	Houses	1	20	2	10.0
	Pumpers	1	6	0	0.0
	Trucks	1	6	2	33.3
	Squads	0	0	0	0.0
21	Houses	1	21	2	9.5
	Pumpers	1	6	2	33.3
	Trucks	1	6	0	0.0
	Squads	1	7	0	0.0
	Houses	2	46	4	8.7
	Pumpers	3	18	0	0.0
	Trucks	2	12	2	16.6
	Squads	1	7	2	28.5
Totals	Houses	133	1277	126	9.9
	Pumpers	114	720	74	10.3
	Trucks	57	360	44	12.2
	Squads	13	91	8	8.8

^aIt should be noted that Table LIII includes all the firemen assigned to non-Negro firehouses. Since this universe was reduced by excluding officers, engineers, etc., the 126 interviews obtained were slightly more than 15 per cent of the sample group.

TABLE LIV

SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY
AVERAGE WORKING TIME FOR FIREHOUSES

Number of hours worked per year	Number of men inter- viewed	Number of hours worked per year	Number of men inter- viewed	Number of hours worked per year	Number of men inter- viewed	Number of hours worked per year	Number of men inter- viewed	Number of hours worked per year	Number of men inter- viewed
40	5	140	1	177	5	252	5	351	5
45		140		183		257		361	
59		143		187		258		368	
61		144		188		259		371	
61		145		188		263		381	
71	3	145	2	189	2	263	4	399	2
76		149		189		264		426	
90		149		190		269		438	
93		153		192		270		438	
96		155		193		278		438	
101	2	155	3	193	3	279	3	440	5
102		156		193		282		448	
104		156		194		291		454	
107		159		200		299		459	
107		160		205		299		463	
111	5	161	3	210	3	303	3	479	7
112		162		211		306		513	
112		166		216		308		515	
113		166		217		308		559	
113		166		221		310		608	
114	2	169	2	223	5	314	2	614	3
117		169		225		317		672	
119		171		226		318		730	
120		171		230		326		861	
123		171		236		339		963	
127	6	175	3	237	2	343	1	1063	
136		176		238					

TABLE LV

SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY AVERAGE WORKING TIME
FOR SIX- AND SEVEN - MEN COMPANIES IN EACH FIREHOUSE

Number of hours worked per year	Number of men inter- viewed	Number of hours worked per year	Number of men inter- viewed	Number of hours worked per year	Number of men inter- viewed	Number of hours worked per year	Number of men inter- viewed	Number of hours worked per year	Number of men inter- viewed
40	5	119	4	160	3	193	3	262	2
45		120		161		193		263	
59		120		162		194		265	
61		122		163		194		268	
61	3	123	6	164	3	200	1	282	2
71		126		166		201		291	
76		127		166		203		291	
84	3	131	2	166	1	205	3	301	2
90		133		166		206		302	
91	5	134	3	169	2	210	3	302	3
93		136		169		211		306	
96		140		170		216		310	
101		140		171		217		313	
102	2	142	3	171	3	217	1	317	5
103		143		171		217		318	
104		145		175		220		319	
104		145		175		225		361	
107		149		176		230		363	
107		149		176		232		426	
111	5	151	3	177	4	233	5	438	5
112		153		183		236		438	
112		154		188		236		438	
113		155		189		238		448	
113	2	156	3	191	5	253	5	454	5
114		156		191		257		473	
118		157		192		258		515	
119		159		193					

APPENDIX II

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE¹

FIREHOUSE DATA

Type of Area of Firehouse _____

Area Served by Firehouse _____

Number of Men Assigned to Firehouse _____

Working Time of Company _____

Average Working Time of House _____

Average Working Time of Six- and Seven-Men
Companies in House _____

Company Signature _____

Platoon Working 1() 2() 3()

PERSONAL DATA

Age _____ Nationality _____

Generations Born in America _____

Time on Fire Department _____

In Firehouse _____ On Company _____

Married () Widowed () Divorced () Separated ()

¹This interview schedule was arranged in four columns, two on each side of a page.

Unmarried () No. of Children() No. of

Dependent Children at Home()

Length of Marriage ()

Education: Years of Grammar School ()
 High School ()
 College ()

Other _____

IN FIREHOUSE

Estimate Number of Free Time Hours

Top Four or Five Activities: Engage in Rated

Card Playing	()	()
Conversation	()	()
Loafing	()	()
Horseplay	()	()
Sports	()	()
Participant() Spectator()	()	()
Hobbies _____	()	() $\frac{1}{4}$
Radio	()	()
Television	()	()
Records	()	()
Odd Jobs	()	()
Ping Pong	()	()
Pool	()	()
Horseshoes	()	()
Baseball	()	()
Volleyball	()	()
Handball	()	()
Reading _____	()	()
Studying _____	()	()
Sleeping _____	()	()
_____	()	()
_____	()	()
_____	()	()
_____	()	()

Bull Sessions Yes () No ()

Subjects _____

Satisfaction V() S() L() N()

Reason _____

Study Fire fighting, etc. Yes () No ()

Reason _____

Same Activities Now as When First a Fireman Yes()

On Previous Company Yes () No() No()

Changes _____

Satisfaction with Firehouse Free Time

V() S() L() N()

Satisfaction of Others V() S() L() N()

Free Time Related to Problems Yes() No()

For Self or Family Yes() No()

For Other Firemen Yes () No()

What Problem _____

Would Like to _____

Can't Because _____

Any General Policy of F.D. on Free Time Yes() No()

If so, what _____

Any Recommendations for Firehouse Free Time Yes()

No()

What _____

OFF DUTY DAYS

Work on Off Day for Profit Yes() No()

Why _____

Buying a Home () Car() Other() Nothing()

Most off Duty Free Time Spent Where

Home() Friends() Other()

Estimate Number of Free Time Hours

Top 4 or 5 Activities:

Engage in Rated

Card Playing

()

()

Conversation

()

()

Loafing

()

()

Horseplay

()

()

Sports

()

()

Participant() Spectator()

()

()

Hobbies

()

()

Radio

()

()

Television

()

()

Records

()

()

Odd Jobs

()

()

Ping Pong	()	()
Pool	()	()
Horseshoes	()	()
Baseball	()	()
Volleyball	()	()
Handball	()	()
Reading	()	()
Studying	()	()
Sleeping	()	()
Work on Home	()	()
With Wife or Kids	()	()
_____	()	()
_____	()	()
_____	()	()

Satisfaction with Off Duty Free Time

V() S() L() N()

Activity Change Since Before a Fireman Yes() No()

Since First a Fireman Yes() No()

If Changed Companies Yes () No()

What _____

Free Time Related to Problems Yes() No()

For Self and Family Yes() No()

For Others Yes() No()

What Problem _____

Would Like to _____

Can't Because _____

BEFORE A FIREMAN

Previous Occupation _____

Why Joined F.D. _____

Importance of Present Job V() S() L() N()

Reason _____

Top Three Free Time Activities Before Joining F.D.

1) _____
 2) _____
 3) _____

REMARKS:

APPENDIX III

COPY OF LETTER FROM HEAD OF FIRE DEPARTMENT

July 7th, 1959

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Permission is hereby granted to the bearer of this letter, Father Brichetto of Loyola University, to obtain certain information concerning family background, leisure time, etc. of (city) Fire Department personnel. This information is to be strictly on a voluntary basis on the part of members interviewed and is to be used by Father Brichetto as material for a Thesis he is writing.

This is your authority to permit Father Brichetto to interview department personnel.

Yours very truly,

(signed by head of fire department)

APPROVAL SHEET

The thesis submitted by James N. Brichetto, S.J.
has been read and approved by three members of the
Department of Sociology.

The final copies have been examined by the director
of the thesis and the signature which appears below verifies
the fact that any necessary changes have been incorporated,
and that the thesis is now given final approval with
reference to content, form, and mechanical accuracy.

The thesis is therefore accepted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts.

Nov. 30, 1962
Date

Francis A. Ceyra
Signature of Adviser